THE TABLOID

JOHN WALSH'S DIARY PAGE 21



INSIDE THE TABLOID



THE TABLOID: FILM

BATMAN?

This is Mir to ground control we've had a bit of a bump

Charles Arthur, Science Editor and Helen Womack, in Moscow

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Morse Computers

Crash had its premiere in space yesterday. Unfortunately for the three astronauts involved, it was not the film - but the first time that two spacecraft have collided.

None of the three astronauts on board the Mir space station was hurt after a collision with an unmanned cargo ship, Progress, at about 10,20 am BST But last night the trio, including British-born Michael Foalc, 40, were struggling to cope, having lost a third of their power supplies and forced to shut off one of Mir's six modules, used for scientific experiments, when its air pressure hegan falling.

A spokeswoman for the US space agency Nasa said: "When the crew closed a hatch on the "Spektr" module they were forced to cut some cables resulting in 45 per cent of Mir's power being lost. Last night the crew and ground control were still assessing whether this will force an evacuation.

The cause of the crash was not immediately clear, though it occurred while cosmonauts Vasily Tsiblivev and Alexander Lazutkin from Russia, and Dr Foale, for the US space agency Nasa, were using manual controls to practice docking Progress - described by Nasa as "the space equivalent of a garbage truck". Progress is gradually moving away from Mir, and is expected to fall to Earth and sink into the Pacific Ocean on Friday. The crew was experimenting with ways of disconnecting it manually because the automatic docking equipment had been failing

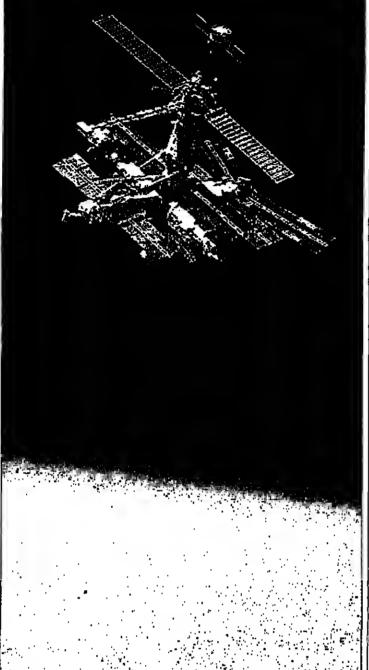
During one run it hit the solar battery of Mir's newest module, the scientific experimentation area called Spektr, added only two years ago. As Spektr slowly began losing air pressure - almost certainly due to solar panel damage rather than a breach of the hall - the crew shut the hatch linking it to the rest of the station.

The incident follows a string of sethacks for the 1I-year-old station, which was first put into orbit 250 miles above Earth in February 1986, and expected to be in use for only five years.

In February a fire broke out. In March the main oxygen generator failed, forcing the crew to rely on a chemical generator; then leaks in the cooling system sent temperatures soaring to 35.5 Celsius, while leaking antifreeze made crew cough and their eyes swell. At the same time a carbon dioxide "scrubber" failed, causing condensation to build up and forcing the astronauts to stop exercising. And on 4 March, the crew lost control of another approaching cargo craft.

Russian space chiefs were last night working out how Spektr could be repaired, as well as considering what to do with the Progress ship, left orhiting the earth close to Mir itself. Cost will be an important factor: The Russian space program is severely strapped for cash, which has restricted the number of relief flights to the station. Consequently. cosmonauts have found themselves breaking space

endurance records whether they wanted to or not. US officials involved in various joint projects with the Russians, have questioned Mir's safety but Moscow insists there is no serious danger.



Collision course: Mir space station earlier this year Photograph: Nasa

Quick surgery to save the bleeding NHS

Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

Hospitals will close and health authorities will merge, Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, said yesterday as he announced plans to develop a health service closer to people's homes, Bowing to financial realities, he said the NHS had to

be reshaped if it was to survive. Although the plan will mean the Government courting the controversy of hospital closures, it was welcomed by NHS managers who see it as nothing less than their last chance to save and then rebuild a service

under intolerable pressure. The key to the Dobson plan is demolishing the "Berlin Wall" separating health and social care, so that health and local authorities work together to reorganise services, exploiting advances in medicine to meet modern needs. That, Mr Dobson said, meant less emphasis on hospitals and more on consulants working in cheap surgeries and nurses dispensing drugs.

NHS Confederation said the idea of local action zones was of "enormous significance": the NHS was in "the last-chance saloon" and if it was to continue providing a full range of treat-ments it would have to grasp the opportunity for change.

The history of the NHS is littered with failed attempts to reconfigure services," he said. "What we are talking about here is an attempt to pull everyone together and in a locality and get them committed to making rad-



Flashback: How The Independent broke the news of the plan in March - prompting strong denials from Labour

I don't see any ways of squaring the resource circle."

Addressing an audience of NHS managers for the second time in a month, Mr Dobson told them that "health action zones" would be identified where health, social voluntary and husiness groups would be brought together to agree changes, defusing opposition to hospital closures and easing the process of reorganisation.

got to have an NHS fit for the 21st century and that cannot be achieved by the NHS alone."

Despite the political risks of shutting hospitals, he has been forced to accept that slimming down the service to produce a leaner fitter NHS is the only way it can survive - as The Independent reported on 24 March. in a story heavily denied by Labour at the time.

In many parts of the country small hospitals duplicate services better provided by bigger

ical changes. We have got to get on with it because unless we do are both uneconomic to run and

tie up capital. NHS managers have been pressing for a closure programme and this month the British Medical Association conceded that services could be improved with fewer hospitals. Up to 10 action zones, which

could be focused on a large authority such as Birmingham or several smaller ones, are ex-pected to be set up. Details will be announced in a White Paper will be available, but officials said some cash could come via local authorities from the environment department regeneration programme which is providing £3.4bn for schemes in deprived areas over the next three years.

Money to fund capital investments, such as new hospitals. would have to be raised under the private finance initiative. A discussion paper circulating among senior NHS manag-

er, ohtained by Health Services

Journal, suggests each action

zone might save between £5m and £30m, potentially realising up to £1.2hn nationally. In Birmingham, where the

NHS Confederation is based, there has been no new investment in hospitals for 30 years hecause there was no consensus on which should be provided. The local authority have not supported what the NHS wanted to do, there have been splits between hospitals and disagreements amongst consultants. We need to get our act together and get people signed up to it," Mr Hunt said.

Mr Dobson, speaking at the confederation conference in Brighton, said: "Change will not be accepted unless we recognise the powerful appeal of the fa-miliar, allow for it in our plans and explain without jargoo how specific changes can improve standards of care."

Speaking later, he said the case for closing hospitals was now widely accepted by NHS professionals. "I am pretty clear there are too many and every one in the NHS thinks there are too many. We are going with the tide of opinion. There would be no blueprint for closures and it would be up to local communities to decide what services they needed. "

The present division between health and social care provoked irresponsibility because each agency looked after its own interest. An elderly widow with 'flu might be taken in to hospital at a cost of £1,000 week or equally well cared for at home for £50 week, Mr Dobson said.

Leading article, page 19

Patten denounces the Tory old guard over Hong Kong

Stephen Vines Hong Kong

Chris Patten has launched a bitter attack on former colleagues and civil servants who have been critical of his role as Governor of Hong Kong and accused him of unnecessarily antagonising the Chinese government ahead of next week's handover.

In an interview with The Independent he hit out at fihe ormer prime minister and "old friend of China" Sir Edward Heath, Lord Howe, who as foreign secretary led the negotiations for Hong Kong's han-dover, and Sir Percy Craddock, the Foreign Office mandarin who was at the ceotre of China and Hong Kong policy making for almost two decades. "I sometimes think," he said,

Exclusive

that one or two of my critics from the past talk as though choices which they must have known at the time weren't simple, have suddenly become hlack and white."

He said he was "struck by the extent to which the paucity of their arguments pushes them into questioning my motives, rather than the consequences of what I've done. I certainly don't start questioning the motives of people like Ted Heath, Geoffrey Howe and Percy Craddock in the way that they question mine."

They have accused him of grandstanding to win media popularity. They tend to talk about Hong Kong as though it were some arcane diplomace puzzle, instead of a real place government and ended with a

where six and a half million people live. Why are they so disinterested in what the people who actually live in Hong Kong

have to say?" Mr Patten has maintained a diplomatic silence over Britain's failure to pursue democratic reform in previous years. He says that while he remains Governor he needs to retain this posture but warns his vow of silence will not be indefinite and gives a taste of what he will say when freed from the constraints of office.

He said ominously: "I happen to have been able to add to my prejudices on the past by having the knowledge which comes with having read most of the pa-pers." Among the things he will talk about are the 1987 White Paper which promised elected

decision not to have direct elections, and the period of the early Eighties when "liberal, with a small L, advocates of democracy were regarded as tantamount to enemies of the state".
As for this "this tiresome, sul-

phurous argument with China'

over democratic reforms, the last Governor is unrepentant. "I do not believe that after Tiananmen we were ever going to be able to put forward decent arrangements for the elections because of the impact Hong Kong's reaction to Tiananmen had on the Chinese. 1 think the choice in those circumstances was always going to be having a row with the Chinese Communist Party or having a row with Hong Kong Patten interview, page 16

Hong Kong handover, page 17 | last-ditch effort to reach agree-Letters, page 19 | ment hetween the Orange Or-

The Orange blueprint for mayhem

David McKittrick reland correspondent

Most sections of the Orange Order have drawn up plans for protests aimed at bringing normal life to a standstill next month, according to reliable se-nior sources within the Order.

They say the plans, for roadblocks and other disruptions. are to be put into operation if next month's Drumcree Orange march is prevented from passing through the Catholic Garvaghy Road district of Portadown, Co. Armagh.

This raises the spectre of a re-run of last year's disastrous confrontation which began at Drumcree and spread to most parts of Northern Ireland, souring community relations and causing millions of pounds worth of damage. On that occasion the march was first han- ned by the RUC hut then allowed through in the face of widespread and escalating disorder.

The decision on whether or not the march is allowed through this year is to be taken hy the Northero Ireland Secretary, Dr Mo Mowlam, in conjunction with RUC Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan. Dr Mowlam is organising a

Exclusive der and Catholic residents with

a proposal of "proximity talks" involving the two sides.

The idea is for the two sides to be brought together tomor-

row under government aus-pices, with officials acting as go-betweens so that they need not meet face-to-face. The most obvious sign of

preparation for protests is in Belfast, where various Orange lodges have applied to stage scores of parades following the Drumcree march, scheduled for 6 July, and the climax of the marching season on 12 July. Notification has been given of the intention to stage no fewer than 30 marches in north Belfast alone - an area which, as a

patchwork quilt of Protestant Catholic and mixed districts, contains numerous potential flashpoints which would require substantial police resources. The preparations for protests

include not just a wave of marches intended to swamp the police hut also the blocking of key roads. Orange sources say that plans are being laid for protests at various levels of the organisation, which is said to have up to 50,000 members. RUC murders arrest, page 2

Blair's peace promise, page 6 Graduate Plus11 Listings20-21 Management 17 TV 24



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BA strike-breaking plan British Airways has drawn up an elaborate plan to break a threatened strike by 9,000 cabin crew which could begin within a fort-

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significant shorts

Man charged with murder of two RUC officers

A man from Lurgan, Co Armagh was yesterday charged with the murders of two RUC officers who were shot dead by the IRA in the town earlier this month. They died when gunmen approached them from behind and shot them in the head.

The man charged, Colin Duffy, was last year released when an appeal court overturned a conviction for the 1993 murder of a former member of the security forces. His solicitor said yesterday that he had no part in the killings of the policemen and would be strenuously denying the charge. David McKittrick Politics, page 6

Family die at Beachy Head

A man and two children plunged 400ft to their deaths at a notorious suicide spot yesterday.

Police were still searching for the body of one of the children at the foot of Beachy Head, East Sussex, six hours after the alarm was raised.

Rescue teams went to the scene after police found an abandoned car at the top of the cliff, near Eastbourne, at 7am. After searching for five hours, the bodies of a man and a child were recovered at the base of the cliff.

The identity of the victims is not known, but they are believed to be a family from London.

Bus services come under scrutiny.

A major review of bus services was launched yesterday by the Government in an attempt to reverse the precipitous decline in

passenger numbers.
Gavin Strang, the transport minister, taunched the review at a conference of hus executives and told delegates that "nothing would be ruled out". Dr Strang said more needed to be done if buses were to play a greater role in meeting transport needs and reducing the dependency of the car. Buses outside London were deregulated in the mid-1980s.

In the capital, London Transport is working up plans for three new, fenced-off hus routes designed to get the public out of their cars and onto public transport. The hus lanes would be kept car free and buses would get priority at traffic lights and at junctions. The overall aim would be to ensure they bypassed any road congestion and travelled with the speed and reliability of a tram.

Man quizzed over student's death



Detectives were last night still questioning a 21-year-old Northampton man about the murder of music student Ryan McEwan-King (pictured).

Miss McEwan-King's naked body was found in Racecourse park, Northampton, on Saturday afternoon, Police said she had been strangled. sexually assaulted and beaten around the face. They believe she was killed in the park shortly before midnight on Friday, Miss McEwan-King, 22, is known to have visited two pubs in Northampton on Friday night.

Redundant get help to bounce back

A new magazine aimed at workers who are made redundant was being launched yesterday, targeted at employers as well as people

Bounceback promises "help and hope" to the unemployed, offering practical support to those who want to start new careers or simply retire early.

Redundancy comes just after death and divorce in the list of emotional traumas treated by counsellors, often leaving people "shattered" according to the magazine,

Editor Stuart Andersen, who has suffered redundancy in his own career, said: "I know the emotions people go through and the loss of confidence even when you know you are good at your job."

Incivility key to crime, says Straw

The level of muggings and burglaries in a neighbourhood is directly inked to the amount of grainti and utter, the Home Secretary Jack Straw said yesterday.

Mr Straw said disorder and "incivility" in a locality were more important pointers to the incidence of street crime than whether or not it was an inner-city area.

Addressing a conference in Leicester on good policing practice, he said that the evidence of the British Crime Survey powerfully reinforced the Government's case for a "zero tolerance" approach to petty street crime.

The figures showed that the chances of being a victim of violent crime were four times greater in a disorderly neighbourhood than an orderly one. "Incivility, not inner-city location, is the key to high crime," he said.

Fall in requests for gun licences

The number of applications for new firearms certificates, including handguns, fell by 15 per cent last year following the Dunblane massacre. According to figures published yesterday by the Scottish Office, police received 1.622 applications for licences during the whole of 1996.

The figures, in the Statistical Bulletin Firearms Certificates Statistics, also show 22 applications for a new firearms certificate were refused hecause of "unsuitability" or inadequate security arrangements for the weapons.

Correction: 'Red Pepper'

The last paragraph of Donald Macintyre's analysis yesterday of Alan Simpson's article in *Red Pepper* magazine should have read:

To let him go scot free for huilding up a lengthy charge sheet of strident attacks on Tony Blair over the course of this parliament, in and out of the Commons, might look like weak leadership. Which is a the interval. is why it's unlikely to happen.

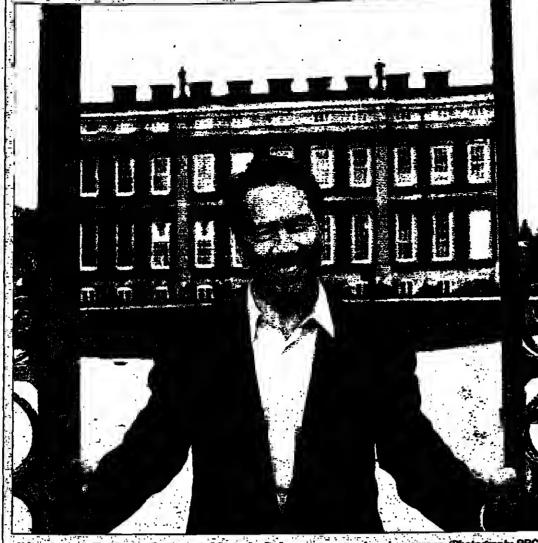
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Natural talent: The former Secretary of State for Defence appears relaxed on screen (Photograph: BBC)

Portillo goes through the keyhole for BBC series

Ichael Portillo, whose last major television appearance gladdened the hearts of many, has landed a riew, sadily temporary, job as a TV presenter and architecture pundit.

The former secretary of state for defence is to present, presumably without a trace of irony, an episode of BBC 2's architecture programme, One Foot in the

Sources at the BBC yesterday described Mr Por-tillo, the former MP for Enfield and Southgate, as a "natural presenter, very charming and knowledgeable", as he waxes lyrical about his favourite building, Wotton House in Buckinghamshire.

The stately home, which is not open to the public but is owned by a friend of Mr Portillo, is an 18th-Century house rebuilt in the early 19th Century by the currently fashionable architect Sir John Soane (1753;

Mr Portillo is seen walking in gardens around the house, dressed casually in a jacket and open-necked

The BBC's press office first described the gardens, designed by Capability Brown, as a "perfect wilderness" before getting cold feet and insisting that the word "wilderness" would not be appearing in the programme's title.

programme's title.

During the programme Mr Portillo confesses that it is the "ruthlessness" of Sir John Soane's replacement of the old main part of the building that he admires

Showing TV audiences a hitherto hidden sensitive. Cheltenham.

Labour MP

endorses gay

campaign

Stephen Twigg, the Labour MP who beat Michael Portillo in En-field Southgate at the general

election, gave his backing to a

nuw campaign by the gay lights group Stonewall yesterday.

Mr Twigg (right), who is one of three openly gay Labour mem-bers, alongside Ben Bradshaw, the

Exeter MP and Chris Smith, the

Heritage, helped to launch a new

of all parties to back the case for

homosexual equality before the

This is an issue of human

rights, to be taken up by all MPs,

not just those of us who are gay.

which Parliament should seek to

However, while insisting that he

did not want to assume the mantle of a Parliamentary champion of

gay rights, Mr Twigg said he did believe there was a ground-swell

"I will play my part, but I'm confident that the majority of my

Labour colleagues will play their

Mr Twigg stopped short of urg-

ing other MPs who were homosex-

of sympathy in Parliament.

This is one of those issues on

It was the responsibility of MPs

Secretary of State for National

drive for equal rights.

ead public opinion."

law, he said.

part as well."

side, the former darling of the Tory right apparently wishes Wotton House were his because it would be "the kind of place to write poetry, fall in love or even hatch political plots". In fact Wotton House belongs to a friend of Mr Portillo's, a Mrs Brunner.

Mr Portillo shows a "well-formed" knowledge of architecture, according to the BBC, and Sir John Soane makes a curiously appropriate architectural hero for

Soane is described by the Penguin Dictionary of Architecture as a "master of illusion", who used mirrors, natural light and firelight to transform his buildings.

And Soane is even more appropriate for Mr Portillo, who was asked to present the programme after he lost both his seat and his hopes of leading the Conservative Party. Penguin says of Soane: "Despite his

genius, he never achieved complete confidence and authority, even in his own style."

But there the parallels end. Soane, a neo-classicist who used touches of romantic and picturesque style. was trained in Italy and was "profoundly" influenced by French architects. Michael Portillo remains profoundly Euro-sceptical.

The programme, to be broadcast on 9 July, is the first in a series that will also include celebrity presenters such as One Foot in the Grave star and life-long socialist Richard Wilson.

Princess Diana's stepmother, Raine Spencer, who is as noted for her taste in bouffant hairdos as Michael Portillo, will present an edition of the programme from

Diana pulls out of mines meeting

Diana, Princess of Wales, pulled out of a meeting with MPs about land mines yesterday, after complaints from Conservatives that she had allowed herself to become involved in politics.

The Princess, who has been campaigning for a worldwide ban on mines, was due to appear at a of Commons All-Party Land Mines Eradication Group.

However, after media claims that

she was dragging the Royal Family into a political issue, she issued a statement which said her attendance at the meeting had become "untenable." She is, however, expected to

continue visiting countries affected by landmines. The Princess's offi-cials maintained that her interest in a worldwide ban on mines was entirely humanitarian. Last night, the group's vice

chairman, the Conservative peer Lord Jopling, said: "I very much regret that this highly important issue is in danger of being hijacked in this way."

Martin Bell, the independent MP

for Tatton and a former war reporter, said the row was "so sad.

"It was going to be a private meeting. The issue is not political at all. I regret that she is not going to be there because I think ther work in the cause has been inspir-Fran Abrams ing," he said.

DISCRIMINATION

Irish feel excluded from rest of society in Britain

An Irish category should be used in all ethnic monitoring systems, the Commission for Racial Equality said yesterday, in response to research suggesting a "powerful sense of hurt and unjustified exclusion from an equal place in British society" among many

people of Irish origin.

The researchers analysed statistical data and the experiences of agencies assisting Irish people and conducted interviews with a representative sample of 88 people.

The commission plans to urge institutions across Britain to review their practices to ensure fair treatment under equal opportunities programmes. The research found discrimination in employment, benefits and the criminal justice system but there was a mideement of the common treatment of the common treatm a widespread assumption that because the victims were white the

discrimination laws would not apply.

Discrimination and the Irish Community. £11.50 from Central Patricia Wynn Davies Books, 99 Wallis Road, London E9 5L.N.

FARMING

Sheep-rustling costs £1m a year

Farmers in the West Country are continuing to count the cost of sheep-rustling, with more than film of livestock lost to organised sheep-rustling, with more than film of livestock lost to organised gangs of thieves, new figures are expected to show.

An estimated 10,000 animals were stolen across the region in 1995, according to the agricultural insurers NFU Mutual, and figures for 1996, due to be released at the Royal Show in Warwickshire this weekend, are expected to confirm that around another 10,000 sheep were rustled in the region.

Sheep are the prime target for livestock rustlers nationally, with around 72,000 animals going missing each year. Together with the

around 72,000 animals going missing each year. Together with the West Country, the North Yhrkshire Moors and Wales are the worst-affected areas.

"These people know what they are doing, and the crimes are planned in advance," said an NFU Mutual spokesman.



SCIENCE

Unease over biotechnology

Many Europeans feel uneasy about the moral implications and safety of hiotechnology, particularly that involving transgenic animals, genetically modified food and animal organ transplants to humans, according to a new survey.

A structured poll, interviewing a total of more than 16,000 people from every country in the EU, found that they also wanted international regulation of biotechnology, and did not trust governments to do the job properly. The respondents did not believe self-regulation by scientists would be effective. British respondents matched the average views of Europeans very closely.

The strongest backing was for the use of biotechnology techniques in genetic testing - for example, to discover the presence of genes predisposing to cancer - and to produce medicines. The results are summarised today in the science journal Nature. Charles Arthur

BROADCASTING

Anna Ford must mind her language

The Broadcasting Standards Commission has taken a firm line on explicit tanguage, in its latest broadcasting complaints report.

Among the complaints upheld are four made by listeners who complained when Radio 4 *Today* programme presenter Anna Ford described an Archers character as a "shit" live on air. It also

upheld complaints about the repeated use of the word "fuck" in two episodes of the controversial Channel 4 series Brass Eve. Radio 4's Loose Ends was censured for allowing two guests to make jokes about necrnphilia and bestiality. Excessive vinlence complaints were upheld against two episodes

of A Touch of Frost, as were complaints about a rape scene in Channel 4's screening of Peter Greenaway's The Baby of Macon. despite a warning being broadcast before the film. Paul McCann

Cares Arthur

MEDICINE

Human antibiotic discovered It's not quite penicitlin - the antibiotic produced by fungi - but it

turns out that human skin produces its own natural antibiotic. which helps protect the body from infection by some common bacteria. The chemical, discovered by German researchers and named human beta-defensin-2 (hBD-2), could be an important step in the war against bacteria, which are rapidly acquiring resistance to existing antihiotics. Jens Schroeder and colleagues at the University of Kiel found

that the antibiotic was very effective against common bacteria like E coli – commonly found in the sale, though one strate cut cause severe tood poisoning – and the infectious yeast Candida albicans. Charles Arthur

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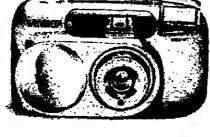
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ual to acknowledge publicly their

sexuality. He said: "Obviously I would pre

fer that MPs would come out, but

that has to be a matter they decide

for themselves. I believe that's a

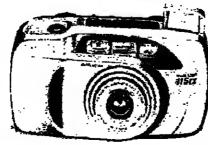
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Equality 2000 - aims to enhance

gays' rights in key areas by the

matter of personal choice."

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IDEAL

Elvis branches out with an orchestra to help a forest grow

David Lister Arts News Editor

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Charles Arte

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The rock star Elvis Costello is collaborating with Britain's most successful chamber orchestra, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, on an orchestral work for children which will indeed be played in a field.

In a unique venture, the work will form part of a concert to be played to 2,500 schoolchildren in a field in Thames Chase Forest near Brentwood in Essex. Every child at the concert will then plant a tree in a dedicated copse as part of an environmental scheme to replenish what has been termed a communi-

The concert is the culmination of

sex working with local schools. Part of that project has included learning about community forests - a rich mosaic of woods and farms, woodland and leisure enterprises, nature areas and public open space, forming a landscape for wildlife, employment, education and recreation on the edge of towns and cities.

Costello has scored an orchestral version of Tom Thumb, which will be conducted by Sir Neville Marriner and performed in a clearing in the forest next week. It is the first work Costello has composed for a full chamber orchestra. The script, written by John Cleese, will be narrated by children's television presenter Zoe Ball

A spokeswoman for the academy an extensive education project in Es- said the orchestra was particularly



Elvis Costello: His work with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields will bring orchestral music to children in a community forest

keen to work with a contemporary composer to bring classical music to

Giving the first details of the project yesterday, Costello told The In-dependent his piece would he followed by "Green Man Ho", a poem by the late William Anderson with music by composer Paul

Costello said: "This is the first time

m my career I've ever been the opening [support] act for anybody, apart from for Bob Dylan. But this is a special project.'

He added: "It's not really like anything else I've ever written. It's the first thing I've written for kids." Costello is a passionate believer in introducing music to children in as creative and inspiring a way as

Wolf, which helps children get to know each instrument, His Tom Thumb composition also has different instruments for different characters.

One of his models is Peter and the

He says: "I try to go against type. I didn't make Tom Thumh a piccolo. He's a bassoon because he's always trying to be higger than he is,

Costello was originally asked to he might have of classical music. narrate the piece as well, but declined. "I can speak quite fluently, but I'm not an actor," he says. "Kids in the audience can relate to Zoc Ball. If it was me they would say it's him with the glasses, it's not as good

as when he sings." He says his mother took him to classical concerts when he was young, and that took away any fear 0171 702 1377.

Photograph: Andrew Buurmar

"The last thing you want is to get terribly po-faced. I've never written any music before just for the pure enjoyment of hearing it with words, "It has always been about deeper, personal emotions. This is a

completely new experience. Tickets for the concert on 3 July are free – some are still available, telephone

Cousteau, guardian of the oceans, dies



John Lichfield Paris

Jacques-Yves Cousteau, everyone's favourite Frenchman, the man who brought the ocean depths into the world's livingrooms, died yesterday at the age

Cousteau will be huried at sea. Among his scores of distinctions, two demonstrate the length of his career and the range of his achievements.

In the 1950s and 1960s, he won two Oscars, the supreme popular cultural achievement, for his pioneering films of ocean

In 1988 he became a member of the Académie Française. the supreme French literary accolade, for his books about

marine ecology. Tributes from all over the globe yesterday were led by the French President, Jacques Photograph: AP Chirac, even though the two

over the resumption of French nuclear tests in the Pacific Ocean.

President Chirac said that Mr Cousteau was a "sorcerer" and a "great Frenchman who was also a citizen of the world."

It is believed that Mr whole planet to protect nature aqualung, or autonomous divand the covironment and the heritage we will leave to our to permit diving without re- gapore harbour after being Cousteau's entire life was children." The US Vice-President, Al Gore, said that Mr Cousteau was a "giant, a personal friend and a hero for very man, woman and child on the planet."

Mr Cousteau's son, Jean-Michel, said: "My father's work is a hymn to life.

"On the wall of my office, there is a quotation from my father. 'Happiness, for a bee or dolphin, is to be alive. For man, happiness is knowing this fact and marvelling at it'."

Jacques-Yves Cousteau is most widely known for his se-

men fell out publicly in 1995 ries of television documen- course to permanent lifelines to taries called the Underwater the surface). Over more then four world of Jacques Cousteau. which were filmed from his decades, Mr Cousteau filmed

converted Royal Navy minesweeper, the Calypso. He was also a great pioneer and innovator, co-developing "He hattled across the and using from 1943 the first

Cannes Palme d'or-winning Silent World in 1956 and Oscarwinning World without Sun in

ing suit (in other words the first His famous ship sank in Sin-

1996; it was salvaged and then naval captain who became an returned to France as a museım piece.

Mr Cousteau launched an apnearly 80 documentaries from peal for a replacement, the £20m Cahpso II, which is due the Calypso, including the to be launched next year.

Dordogne river at St André-de- on Monday morning.

glo-Irish millionaire Noel Guinness, who bought and converted the Calypso.

A memorial service will be Born beside the mouth of the held in Notre-Dame cathedral

ocean explorer in 1950, thanks

to the benevolence of the An-

Obituary, page 18

Global warming poses new threat to whales' survival

Science Editor

"Save the krill" may not yet have the res-onance of "save the whale" as a rallying cry. But new findings by scientists in the Antarctic suggest that global warming is effectively killing off the tiny shrimp-like creatures which are the favourite food of many species of whales, including the. hlne, grey, humpback and minke.

The krill population is being undermined by salps, simple pouch-like creatures that are eaten by only a few marine animals, but which produce dense blooms which interfere with krill reproduction and kill off their

Krill look like small prawns, with a pair of swimming legs and large black eyes. They grow up to about 6 centimetres long during their life of between five and 10 years. maturing after two years. There are esti-mated to be about 500,000 billion individual krill - comprising 500 million tonnes of hiomass - and they occur in vast swarms which can seem to turn the water red. They have been harvested since the 1970s by Russia, the Ukraine and Japan, with about 300,000 tonnes caught annually: their uses include feed for fish farms, domestic ani-

By contrast, salp only live about a year,



Feeding fear: A humpback whale sieving the sea for krill Photograph: Ardea

and their numbers can explode if conditions

are favourable. Data collected in the Antarctic suggests. that there are fewer krill because salps flourish in years when there is less sea ice, whereas the krill do better in colder years probably because they can live off algae that forms on the ice. Krill form food for predators including "baleen" whales - the class of whale with a sieve-like mouth for filtering food from the ocean - as well as Adelie penguins, petrels, fulmars, squid and fish.

Over the past 50 years, records show that there have been progressively fewer winters with extensive sea-ice coverage, while average air temperatures have risen. This will help the salp and hurt the krill. That, in turn, will affect the marine food weh, and could lead to falling numbers of whales. At the same time, on King George Is

land in the Antarctic the number of Adelie penguins - which forage for young krill -has fallen by 30 per cent since the 1970s, and fewer fiedglings are surviving.

Piracy fears over CD machine

Çlare Gamer

A revolutionary mass-market CD recorder which allows people to record their own compact discs as easily as cassette tapes was unveiled vesterday.

The £600 machine from Philips Electronics, which goes on sale in Britain later this year, plugs into any existing home au-dio system and can be used to copy sound from the radio,

records and voices, as well as other compact discs. Philips claims that the recording quality is

even better than the original. But the music industry warned that the introduction of yet another recording medium would increase the already huge

problem of music piracy.

Doug Dunn, chairman of Philips Sound & Vision said: "The ability to make your own audio CDs has been something

of a boly grail among consumers Blank, once-only discs cost

about £3 while rewritable discs will retail for £12 initially, although Philips said it expected the price to drop.

Hi-Fi experts greeted the development enthusiastically. Andy Clough of What Hi-Fi? magazine, said: "We'd all like to have one of these. We all buy CDs and want to make copies the problem is getting worse."

to give to friends and if this means we can do that then it's very attractive indeed."

But the record industry was less enthusiastic, warning that the development would do nothing to curb the rise in CD piracy. Catrin Hughes, of the International Federation of Phonographic Industries, said: "We lose about two hillion dollars a year through piracy and

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rammed there by a barge in bound up in the sea. He was a



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BA on war footing as staff vote to strike

Labour Editor

British Airways has drawn up an elaborate plan to break the threatened strike by 9,000 cabin crew which could start within two weeks.

The airline sent a letter to stewards and stewardesses offering to help them cross picket lines and warning strikers that they faced the sack if they took action. Prolonged industrial action could cause chaos to tens of thousands of holidaymakers and husiness travellers.

The company went on a war footing after union leaders announced a 73 per cent vote in favour of industrial action. Management warned that strik-ers faced dismissal and that they could be sued for losses incurred by the airline. Those who wanted to continue working were promised protection from militant pickets and offered ways of smuggling themselves into

Flights that face disruption

Services which could be affected by strikes: "Mainline" BA services. All BA flights from Heathrow.
All inter-continental flights from Gatwick. Programme of 24- and 48-hour strikes likely from 7 July. Not affected:

Domestic and European services from Gatwick. Regional services from Manchester, Birmingham and

work. In a ploy reminiscent of the miners' and Wapping disputes in the 1980s, strike-breakers were promised secret collection points for coach services. Others will have taxi fares of up £75 paid and those who were assured that car parks

chose to use their own vehicles would be guarded. The airline warned potential strikers that they risked loss of promotion and the option of early retirement. Free and cutprice travel, the main perk of the

joh worth thousands of pounds

a year, could also be at risk. A document seen by The Independent shows that management has been planning to

undermine union power for at

least eight years. Senior management formed secretive committee called "The Miners' Group" with the express intention of encouraging the kind of split in the BA workforce that led to the formation of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers which defied the 1984 pit strike. The clandestine grouping reported to Robert Ayling, who was then human resources director, but is now chief executive.

In the words of the confidential memorandum, management planned to reduce "the hold of trade union power over cabin crew members" at a time when Cabin Crew '89 split away from the Transport and General Workers' Union. Cabin Crew '89 members who number about 3,000 compared to 9,000 in the TGWU will he expected to cross pick-

et lines if the strikes go ahead. Management's plans to prepare the husiness for the new millennium, which entail savings of £1bn, would not be held back by 1970s-style trade unionism.

said Mr Ayling.
George Ryde, national official of the transport union, said he expected that 9,000 groundstaff, involved in a separate dispute over BA's plans to sell its catering division, would vote by a similar majority for strikes.



Charles Arthur Science Editor

Cow mountain is safe to burn in power stations

Alcopops sale led to death

sidering seven applications from companies that want to hum the waste products of cattle slaughtered in the over-30 months scheme introduced in May 1996. So far 850,000 cattle have been killed and rendered. The remains are being stored in

court heard that Graham Bai-

ley had been served with Hooch

Graham, of Ormskirk, Lan-

just before he died.

agency also decided there is no risk to public health from landfill sites containing carcasses of cows infected with BSE. There are 6,117 such carcasses in 59 sites across Britain, as disclosed by the Independent in April.

However, disposing of the remains in landfill sites is proagency's director of environ- warehouses and are increasing mains in landfill sites is promental protection. He is con- by 2,000 tonnes a week. The hibited under new European

rules. Disposal through power-stations is the only feasible alternative. It would be burnt at-1.450C. hot enough to destroy any infectious protein in the mix. Mr Slater said. "The risk would he about the same as smoking a millionth of one cigarette in your lifetime."

Operators would have to al-ter existing stations. or huild new ones, to cope with the waste: it could not simply be added to fuels now used. But it would have about the same calorific value as coal.

Also, it would be free: the Inervention Board, the arm of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food which owns the waste, says it would probably not

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it. Check that you se tiling in everything you need to - and don't forget to sign the combleted furni before sending it off, flow give yourself a part on the back. That mass t the painful was fit?

*All calls are charged at local raties.

There were fresh calls yescashire, had been attending a friend's 15th hirthday party last terday for more control over the November when he was among sale of the growing range of al-

DAILY POEM

Comfort

By Kevin Crossley-Holland

Mountains of powder from the

rendered carcasses of cattle with "mad-cow" disease (BSE)

can safely be burnt in power-sta-tions, the Environment Agency

decided. The risk to the public

would be small, about a tenth

of that of being hit by lightning

in any one year, which is esti-

Disposing of the remains,

225,000 tonnes of rendered

meat and bone meal and

115,000 tonnes of tallow, or fat,

would take 200 days in a stan-

dard 500-megawatt power-sta-

tion, said David Slater, the

have been fined more than

£7,000 and lost their licence af-

ter selling alcopops to a 14-year-old boy who died under a train.

mated at 1 in 10 million.

Who said anything about comfort? Those syllables do not rhyme with zinc slakes or ice-pright sky. The sea is grinding her spears. Up creeks and gullies, over groynes the black tide surges and the hag wind rides her. In the bleak forest on the staithe rigging clacks and chitters.

Little but memory for company, wild geese, swans whooping, but no urbanity no gossip prejudice bitterness sham. In London I dream of these harsh folds. the sea's slam, the light's eagle eye, and here again I draw this place - hair shirt, dear cloak around such infirmitics.

Kevin Crossley-Holland's Poems from East Anglia brings together verse about the region where he lives from seven pre-vious volumes, plus some formerly unpublished work. This poem first appeared in Waterslain (1986). Poems from East Anglia is published (price £7.95) by Enitharmon Press at 36 St George's Avenue, London N7 0HD.

leave the Swan Hotel in Scaris-

hrick after becoming rowdy. He was crossing the nearby railway line at an unmanned crossing when harriers came down. Another teenager got ont of the way of the train but Graham was struck. He was said to have a blood alcohol reading of 220mg - almost three times the drink-drive limit. Magistrates in Ormskirk were told yesterday er than those under 18. The mesthat the youths had been supplied with Hooch, an alcoholic

lemonade, lager and spirits. Licensee Edward Moorcroft. 48, and his wife. Jeanette, 52. pleaded guilty to a total of 18 offences of serving alcohol to underage teenagers and allowing children under 14 in a bar.

Mr Moorcroft was fined £6,410 and his wife £1,410. Magistrates described what had happened as a flagrant abuse of the licensing laws. Later Alcohol Concern made fresh calls for controls on alcopops.

Spokesman Lee Lixenberg said: "There needs to be a tightening up at the point of sale. But the bigger issue is the way these drinks are being marketed in a way that appeals to under-age drinkers. We want a much tougher regulatory system for the drinks trade to abide by, which has the full weight of the law."

Those at the party were aged between 13 and 19. Police said the parents of some of them committed offences by buying drinks

A pub landlord and his wife coholic "soft" drinks after a a group of teenagers asked to for children and had been officially cautioned. Graham's parents were not at the party.

The officer in charge of licensing for South Lancashire, Sergeant Geoff Sumner, said the sentences sent out a clear message over under-age drinking. The sales of alcopops should be more controlled," he said. "I don't see how anyone can say they are targeted at anyone othsage from this incident is over the part parents should be playing. They should be more aware of what children are drinking and where they are obtaining it."

Alan Turner, defending the landlord and his wife, told magistrates vesterday that they were "shattered" by events. They had now lost their home, livelihood and savings.

Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, has already threatened to consider a ban on alcopops. And the Prime Minister vesterday confirmed the Government's commitment to clamping down on their sale.

After being pressed on what action the Government would take to discourage under-age drinking. Tony Blair told the Commons at question time that it was "very important that we work with the manufacturers. and others to deal with it". He said a working party had been : set up to look into the matter after alcoholic ice pops were found on sale in shops.

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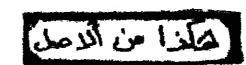
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New tables to identify schools that could do better

Judith Judd Education Editor

New-style league tables will expose schools with middle-class intakes which get reasonable examination results but could do better, ministers promised yesterday.

Estelle Morris, the schools minister, announced that from this November secondary school exam performance tables will tell parents whether schools have improved by giving results for this year and the last three.

From next year, ministers say that both primary aod secondary schools should be able to show how much progress pupils are making at different stages. They want to end criticism that the present league tables tell parents more about the hackground of a school's pupils than the quality of its teaching.



Estelle Morris: Tables will show value added by schools

d to death

- --

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Government exam advisers will look at ways in which the "value added" to pupils' educatioo can be demonstrated ei-ther in or with next year's will be given a number so that they can be tracked throughout their school careers.

Ms Morris said: "So far performance tables have oot given as full a picture of what is happening in schools as they might do. The tables must show more than just raw information on

performance in any single year." She said new value-added levels for schools would compare pupils' prior attainment with their current achievement. "Those schools which should be doing a lot better with the in-

take they have will no longer be able to coast along in the mid-dle of the tables," she added.

This year's national publication of primary league tables for national curriculum tests for 11-year-olds will not be repeated. Instead, local authorities will be given a statutory duty to pub-lish the results. Next year, publication will he in January instead of March and the 1998 results should be published in November, in time to help parents in their choice of school.

It will be up to local authorities to decide whether to publish results of national tests for 7- and 14-year-olds.

Ms Morris said that research done for the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority had found that it was possible to measure value added in schools. For example, pupils' performance in tests at 7 will be compared with their achievements at 11, and results at 14 will be compared with GCSE results. Schools will have to base their targets for improvement on the David Hart, general secretary

of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the proposals were a step in the right direction but did not go nearly far coough. Tables would still oot properly take into account pupils who scored less than C or those who were absent.

Doug McAvoy, general sec-retary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "League tables based oo crude results are not a reliable indication of school performance no matter bow they are modified by so called value-added indicators."

Ministers bave decided not to performance at 16 - five A-C grades - despite criticism that it encourages schools to oeglect the weakest and concentrate on children capable of getting at least a C.

■ David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, yesterday went to News International's plant in Wapping, cast London, to launch an extension of the Government's summer literacy schools programme. In a press release it was announced that Rupert Murdoch's company was giving £250,000 to the scheme. | of two people who lived



Back to the future: The reconstructed face of a woman who lived in Egypt during the first century AD, under Roman rule

Arts News Editor

Dressed in the height of Egyptian fashion, flaunting her earrings and neck hands, she is a little more reserved in her hairstyle, wearing it in a neat bun at the hack.

The extraordinary thing about her and her man, said a British Museum official, is that they look so modern, so much a part of the contemporary scene. You could see these people in certain parts of London.

But these are Egyptians from Roman times. The skulls of a man and a woman who were alive sometime between the first and third centuries AD have beeo recoostructed at the British Museum io an attempt to recapture the appearance of the people who lived along the Nile oearly 2000 years ago.

They have been put on show at the museum aloogside the original skulls and tomb portraits of the bodies before mummificatioo - and the similarity to the portraits is remarkable.

The reconstructions were rried out by Richard Neav Artist in Medicine and Life Science at the University of Manchester, and John Prag, keeper of Mediterranean Archaeology at the Manchester

A British Museum spokesman said: "Dr Neave and Dr Prag were given no information about the portraits until the reconstruc

tions were complete. "The results are dramatic and remarkable - accurate three-dimensional likenesses nearly 2000 years ago have been recreated, which correspond closely to their

painted portraits." The skulls and mummy portraits were discovered by archaeologist Flioders Petrie in 1888 as he excavated a site at Hawara, south-west of

He removed the skulls from many of the portrait mummies for research, believing he could find the age, character and lifestyle of the dead Egyptians.

Each skull was carefully labelled to correspond to its mummy portrait, hut the eventual arrival for the artifacts to Britain went unrecorded and the cargo was

A group of skulls have only

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz been traced recently and form A face from part of the current British Museum exhibition: "Ancient

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Blair's promise of peace to Ulster's young

Colin Brown and David McKittrick

Tony Blair yesterday forced the pace of the stalled peace process in Northern Ireland by setting a fresh timetable for the all-party talks to start in September and end in May next year, raising the possibility of a referendum on the talks

Unionist Party leader, last night responded by calling for a clear deadline for the IRA to call a ceasefire. Sources close to Mr Trimble said he is under pressure in Northern Ireland not to surrender ground in the peace process. "He is walking a tight-

12-year-old Belfast schoolgiri to achieve lasting peace. Before his Commons statement. Mr Blair met Margaret Gibney, a schoolgirl who had written to him at Downing Street appealing for peace. "I owe it to her, and this House owes it to her, and all who have influence and an-

Unionists give lukewarm response to new timetable

thority owe it to her, to put a stop to the killing and put in place a lasting political settlement," Mr Blair said.

Social Democratic and Labour Party, signalled that he would support the process without Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, if the IRA failed to restore the ceasefire. But Ulster Unionist MPs were quick to

Mr Trimble complained in the Commons that the Prime Minister's plans were "seriously deficient" because they failed to include a timetable for arms decommissioning and he said the terrorists were being given "yet another last chance And the Rev Ian Paisley,

leader of the Democratic

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The initiative was given cross-party support by William Hague, the Tory leader, and by Paddy Ashdown, the leader of the Liberal Democrats. The Prime Minister con-

Unionist Party, protested that Sinn Fein was going to get into

the talks without surrendering

firmed that officials had sent an aide memoire to Sinn Fein, setting out the offer to allow the republicans into the talks six weeks after a renewed IRA ceasefire. He made it clear that a settlement would be reached without Sinn Fein if necessary, raising the Northern Ireland on the outcome of the talks next year.

Downing Street later em-phasised that Mr Blair will not allow himself to he "strung along" by Sinn Fein, and ruled out any further contacts with the party to clarify his statement. The contacts were cancelled

after the "pointless and cowardly" killing of the two police officers in Lurgan last week.

at No 10: Tony Blair entertaining Margaret Gibney, the Belfast schoolgirl whose letter ebout peace so impressed him Photograph: Peter Jordan

for an independent body to oversee the decommissioning of weapons during the talks.
The Prime Minister's statement has put the ball firmly back in the IRA's court. The terrorists will now face pressure from

document setting out the terms new ceasefire. But the convention wisdom is that no ceasefire is to be expected until after 6 July, the date that Orangemen are scheduled to march down the Garvaghy Road in Portad-

> hrought chaos and destruction across the Province Gerry Adams last night wel-

> own - an event which last year

comed the Prime Minister's statement, saying: "We will give the proposals our fullest atten-

tion and consideration. But he added: "I remain deeply concerned that the decommissioning issue will become a block to the negotiation of the substantive issues further

Hints of hope over talks

The Government yesterday published a secret aide-mémoire to Sinn Fein hinting at concessions for terrorist prisoners from both loyalists and republican groups, if progress is made in the peace process, writes Colin

The document said that as e confidence-building gesture, the Government recogparticular nised "the sensitivities of prisoner issues on all sides". One of the key demands from paramilitaries on both sides has been for early releases to take place.

once the peace is secured. The aide-mémoire confirms that officials secretly told Sinn Feln that it could gain entry to the talks six weeks after the declaration of an IRA ceasefire.

The document was written after two meetings in May between officials and Sinn Fein, and is still in force. It shows that ministers were offering Sinn Feln the chance to take a seat at the peace talks by the end of July, providing the IRA announced the "un-

equivocal restoration" of the

"The British Government wants to see the talks proceed on an inclusive basis and move on to the substantive political issues as soon as possible, and in any case by September. It wants Sinn Fein participating in these talks," it says.

Some time would be needed to assess a ceasefire to see that the words of the IRA matched their deeds. "We understand that an openended time period gives rise to accusations of bad faith. We are prepared therefore to remove any misunderstanding by saying the period of time for such a judgement is

"If an unequivocal ceasefire is in place by mid-June, and is satisfactory in word and deed, Sinn Fein would be invited to e plenary session of the negotiations by the end of July. That would be the occasion for Sinn Feln to make clear its commitment to the Mitchell

Labour suspends MPs to quell row over sleaze

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Two Labour MPs were suspended from holding office yesterday by the party's ruling National Executive Commit-

Both Mohammad Sarwar. who is accused of trying to hribe an election rival, and Robert Wareing, who is accused of failing to declare an interest in a Serbian company, have denied the allegations

against them. Mr Sarwar was also suspended last night from the party whip in the House of Commons. Mr Wareing had

the whip suspended last week. Mr Sarwar's constituency party in Glasgow Govan will be suspended until October and will then be reopened with a greater number of branches than before.

Both cases have been re-ferred to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, for inves-

Police are continuing to look

into claims that Mr Sarwar paid £5,000 to a rival candidate, Badar Islam, to "ease off" his

election campaign.

Labour has been anxious to act quickly against MPs ac-cused of "sleaze" because of the damage done to the past government when it failed to act on allegations against ministers.

Last night, Mr Sarwar issued a statement repeating his belief that the police would clear his name. "I am obviously saddened by

the National Executive decision that I should be suspended from holding office within the Labour Party," he said. The chief executive of the

Scottish National Party, which had the the second largest vote m Govan at the general election, repeated an earlier call for Mr Sarwar to resign and allow a byelection.

"Mr Sarwar should end this sorry saga now by resigning as the Govan MP. As much as any other constituency, Govan needs a full-time and fully functioning MP - a role which Mr Sarwar is unable to fulfil."

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But David Trimble, the Ulster John Hume, the leader of the rope," said the source.
Mr Blair told MPs that politicians on all sides owed it to a raise their objections.

> almost every point of the po-Mr Blair also published a litical compass to declare a

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another for the first time at Prime Minister's Questions, and the smell of fresh testosterone hung heavy in the musty air of the chamber. Tony Blair, as we know. seldnm actually walks anywhere. If he's not running, he's cycling. Civil servants, older colleagues, portly iournalists and meaty German chancellors are all left behind, panting, as he dashes from country to country in a mania of governing. Given this vigour

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

which has now enlisted the tal-

eots of Sir Cameroo Mackin-

tosh, the West End's leading

producer of musicals.

one might have expected their encounter to have resembled those male contests of youth, involving measurements of strength, dimension, velocity and But Mr Hague is calmer than Mr Blair, Actually, thanks Mr Hague is calmer than almost anybody. There are convents that are more

balance, thinks of his fiance, Ffion (incidentally, is the

inet giving details of how the requirements set by Tony Blair costs, tegacy, national pro-The Cahinet is expected today gramme, management and con-tent - will be met. tn give the go-ahead to the £838m Millennium Exhibition

At a press conference this afternoon Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, who has been put in charge of the project, will announce that there Chris Smith, the Secretary of will be a large "drum arena" at State for National Heritage, will present a paper to the Cabthe centre of the dome with a 10,000-strong capacity. Visitors

to the exhibition will all first at-tend a live performance in this arena which will be created by a team led by Sir Cameron Mackintosh and his colleague, theatre director John Napier,

There has been widespread npposition within the Cabinet with virtually all its members opposed to the plan apart from the Prime Minister who has wanted to retain the apportunity for giving Britain a modern image. opposition from the Cabinet.

Despite all this opposition which echoed in the wider Labour Party as well, with many Labour MPs privately angry at the decisinn to retain the exhi-bition, Mr Mandelson and Mr Blair are determined to press ahead. Indeed the decision illustrates the extent to which Mr Blair is running his Government singlehandedly as he is prepared to make decisions in the face of

Yesterday, doubts still re-mained over the dome. The cen-tre piece of the exhibition will be retained after the year-tong exhibition and the year's exten-sion which it is likely to be granted. The owner of the land, English Partnerships, a government quango, does not want to see the dome retained but it is difficult to see how the conditions set by Mr Blair - that there should be a lasting legacy - can paying around £20 in order to

Cabinet toes line on millennium show

be met if it is to be demolished straight after the exhibition. Mr Mandelson, however, is

confident that "the exhibition will provide fascination, oppor-tunities for tearning and fuo" and will meet the now-famous Euro factor - the requirement that Mr Blair's 13-year-old son,

Euan, will enjoy the show. The exhibition needs at least 10 million people to visit it, each

The original ideas put forward by the design company, Imagination, based oo the der the cooditions imposed by the new Government, the exhibitioo must not receive any theme of time, are to be largepublic mooey apart from the £200m of Lottery money ally retained, although the Gov-ernment is very keen on ready earmarked by the Millennium Commission and a £250m contingency fund which is widely expected to be used

emphasising the further rather than the past.

Mr Mandelson said last night that people are fascinated by given that so much work needs baving glimpses into the future to be carried out for the official and "we will try to ensure are as many as possible". and "we will try to ensure there

This is no country for old meo. The young, if nnt in one another's arms. are at each other's throats. Young Mr Blair and young Mr Hague confronted one

to transcendental meditation, small, silent orders of passive nuns living in secluded, rural frenetic than he is. This is, of course, due to the 20 minutes per day he spends cross-legged on the sitting-room kilim, going "ommm". So whenever William feels passion's prick, he hauls his chakra back into Welsh for fiance "ffionce"?) and the inflammation quickly

So, paradoxically, it was Mr Blair who looked the more edgy and nervous as the

Hague reveals a secret talent: ommm chanting

darting hither and yon, his face involuntarily practising some of its favourite expressions; pugnacity. seriousness, elfin amusement and hack to pugnacity. Little Willy, on the other hand, sat there sheathed in light blue aura, a contented smile indenting the lower curves of his cranial egg. Perhaps those closest to him could hear the faintest sound, "ommm". When, finally the fight

began, Mr Hague's voice was a surprise. At that famous Tory conference, 20 years ago, it was like a digitised Enoch Powell - a portentous whine, except with the variations in tone removed. But that was obviously too exciting, so he has now replaced it with an immensely deep and placid rumble, like a large stone rolling very slowly down a shallow slope, and



momentum - coming to a

His subject - the handling of dissent within Labour's ranks - was a good one for an attack, but not really hig enough for a new leader trying to look grand. When pressed once or twice it was fine. Repeated five times it made seem insubstantial and oddly phlegmatic, as though

with thinking up something more exalted.

Mr Blair rewarded him with the same ayuncular incomprehension that Mr Major had shown him just a few months before, as if to say, "these youngsters, what do they know of life?" It was clear that Hague's attack was faltering. "Ommmmmm", came the low, almost

ears other than mine. And he kept smiling, his aura only hriefly showing the smallest purple discoloration.

Behind him on the fourth row back, in the aisle seat, sat the relaxed figure of John Major (C, Huntingdon), placidly listening to the proceedings - his only action to pen a short note of encouragement to his Tory

at how, within the space of a few weeks, this man had gone from a position of immense power to one of powerlessness

and yet not a single person had been killed, no heads had been broken, and no children scared by riot or arrest. A moment to reflect that - whether Blairian hyperactivity or Hagueish Ommunism wins out - there's an awful lot to be said for

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

THE LEADERS TACKLE BLAIR

Hague asked whether Labour MP Liew Smith was right to say he was threatened with expulsion if he campaigned against a Welsh assembly. Blair said nobody had been threatened. Anyone could speak out "in accordance with the rules of the Parliamentary Party". Instead of capitalising on this, Hague asked Blair to say Smith had not told the truth. Blair, predictably, repeated his first reply. He later denied that Labour councils had been put, under pressure to ensure MPs toed the fine on devolution.

Manufacts Rilairs** wilnes. Verdict: Blair wins

Ashdown, anticipating a "winter crisis on the wards", again asked whether money saved in one Government department should not be transferable to another, even if this broke spending limits. Blair replied "The overall control totals must be kept to, the departmental spending targets are there and for these two years will be kept writin". Ashdown was repetitive, but he is highlighting Verdict: Ashdown wins

THE BACKBENCH ISSUES

THEMES OF THE DAY

"A full pint of beer, with the froth on top" (Dennis Turner, Lab. Wolvern ton South East) nt spending plans (Dennis Skinner, Lab. Bolsover)

 The electoral mandate of Northern Ireland Unionist parties (William Thompson, UUP Tyrone West)

GOOD DAY

Douglas Hogs pursued the Weish Martyn Jones (Lab. Chwyd Assembly question. He enjoyed a South) May I congratulate my Rt Hon

Chance to turn the tables on the new Friend on a magnificent speech on the Conservatives and demanded that a Min-ster (Ron Dayles) should come to the the Conservatives began a tidal wave House and explain minself. He strugged of jeering, from which he had difficul-off Labour backbeich cries of "moo" ty recovering the rest of his question.

THE QUIP OF THE DAY

There announced that he was standing up to speak for the beer dishes of Britain. I wonder whether the Prime Minister has had an opportunity to study my Weights and Measures. The began. Then he paused either for breath or comic effect. Giggles and tries of Their heef failed the chamber-before the tubby Turn-

Simen Birins (Con. Chelmsford) asked when the Government would hilly a the election pieces to help some pensioners who, he said, were funding their own residential care, because the local council award not; Blair blamed the problem of musing home costs of the Tories, but did not address the local issue.

THE CREEP OF THE DAY Innie Jenes (Lab. Birmingham Selly Oald) asked about "the cru-sade to drive up standards in schools" one of several questions yesteriely to "which Blair replied with: "my Homographe Friend is absolutely right to draw attention to a good Indicator that some greeping has occurred. Replying, he quoted, a number of statistics suspiciously relevant to the detail of Jones's question.



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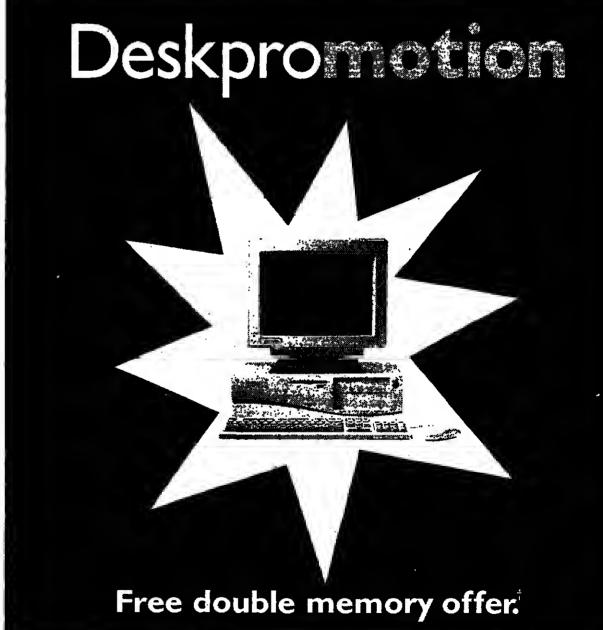
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Halford triumphs over snooping by colleagues

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

Merseyside Police illegally tapped the office telephone of their former assistant chief constable Alison Halford during her sex-discrimination battle with the force, the Eu-. ropean Court of Human Rights ruled yesterday.

The important ruling establishes a new right of privacy for employees and will force the Government to review Britain's phone-tapping

The judges awarded compensa-tion of £10,000 to Ms Halford. once the highest-ranking female police officer in Britain, who launched a sex-discrimination complaint in 1990 after claiming that she had heen passed over for promotion nine times. The complaint developed into a hitter struggle with Merseyside's Chief Constable, Sir James Sharples, and some members of the police authority.

The Government conceded it was likely that Merseyside Police had intercepted calls at her office at Merseyside Police Headquarters, probably with the primary aim of gathering material to defend the

complaint.

The Strasbourg judges, including the representative for the United Kingdom, unanimously ruled that articles 8 and 13 of the European Conventioo oo Human Rights were violated by the tapping of the calls, fective remedy. Ms Halford had had

a "reasonable expectation" of privacy in making and receiving phone calls in her office and she had not been warned that her telephone

might be bugged.

Ms Halford told a press conference she had called in a BT engineer when her phones began "tinkling". "He could not find any reason for it. Then quite suddenly something seemed to dawn on him and he said it must have been a loose wire under the floorboards. The office was very modern though, and had concrete floors."

The judges awarded Ms Halford £600 towards personal expenses mcurred in bringing the case to Stras-bourg and £25,000 of £142,875 she had claimed in legal costs and expenses. They rejected a second claim that the phone at her home at

Caldy, Merseyside, had been tapped. The discrimination case was settled in 1992 when Ms Haiford took ill-health retirement with ex gratia ayments of £15,000. In December 1990 she had been suspended from duty following disciplinary allegations which included swimming in

'I feel sad a chief constable I enjoyed an excellent working relationship with behaved in this dishonourable manner'

Her solicitor, Rohin Makin, said: "The principle has been established that an improper invasion of her privacy occurred. It will have tremendous implications. In a tetter to Ms Halford's then

MP, David Alton, the Home Office said that eavesdropping by the Merseyside Police on their own internal telephone system fell outside the scope of the 1985 Interception of Communications Act and would not require a warrant.

A Home Office spokeswoman said that Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, was "looking carefully at whether or not any changes are needed to the law'

a poot in ber underwear. The suspension was later lifted but she was resuspended pending a further disciplinary investigation.

She claimed during the Strasbourg proceedings that some memhers of the Merseyside Police Authority launched a "campaign" against her in response to her dis-crimination complaint. This took the form of leaks to the press, the bringing of disciplinary proceedings against her and the interception of

John Wadham, director of the human rights organisation Liberty, were spying on one of their own employees whilst she was fighting a sex-discrimination claim against them. The case establishes a clear right to privacy for employees, and the Government will now need to draft legislation to protect this right."

When Ms Halford-launched her discrimination complaint she was the highest-ranking policewoman in Britain. Now, 12 of 230 at chief officer rank (chief constables, their deputies and assistants and Metropolitan Police commanders) are women, including two chief

Ms Halford said at the press conference that she was "extremely delighted" by the ruling. "When it comes to tapping phones in this country the law as it stands indicates that you must be a terrorist, a subversive or a threat to the public. Bringing an equality action did not put me into that category ... I be-lieve in the right circumstances that it is right and proper for police to protect us from wrongdoing and that could include phone tapping. I feel sad, though, that a chief constable I have enjoyed an excellent working relationship with behaved in this dishonourable manner."

Sir James said: "No agency can ever confirm or deny such matters because to do so would undermine the effectiveness of the technique.

Targeted: Alison Halford facing the press In Liverpool yesterday after the Strasbourg judgment Photograph: Peter Byme



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Securicor staff suspended over the death of prisoner

The Prison Service yesterday suspended seven staff employed by Securicor, the private security firm, after an inquest jury found that lack of care contributed to the accidental death of a prisoner who hanged him-self while in their custody.

Three hours after the verdict at Hammersmith coroners' court in west London, the Prison Service said it was suspending the certificates of all the officers responsible for the custody of Peter Austin, and would consider whether they should be permanently revoked. It said it would also review Securicor's training programme in the light of the case, and would "urgently con-sider" recommendations by the coroner. Dr John Burton.

Kathy Marks reports on questions raised about jail escorts

on 29 January this year. After he was cut down, a bail hearing went ahead outside his cell as he lay slumped on the floor inside. Earlier, Dr Burton had said he would inform the Home Office of concerns ex-

pressed by Mr Austin's family about the adequacy of Securicor's training programme. Patrick O'Connor, counsel for the family, told Dr Burton: "It appears that little or nothing has been done by those in Mr Austin, 30, was found hanging by his
T-shirt from a light fitting in the cells below ilar fatalities."

authority to prevent the recurrence of similar fatalities."

lie quarde d

there was a delay of up to 10 minutes be-fore they entered the cell. However, all but one of them said they believed he was faking a suicide attempt.

Mr Austin was the first person to die in

the care of Securicor, which is responsible for prisoner escorts in London. One man died in 1993 while being transported by Group another private firm.

Deborah Coles, co-director of the pressure group Inquest, said the case had reinforced questions about the appropriateness of private security firms to look after vuloerable prisoners.

John Metcalfe, director of court and escorting contracts at Securicor, said that although its training and procedures accorded with Home Office specifications. the company would "carefully review the lessons to be learned from this incident".

> Locked out: The Home Office has withdrawn Securicor's contract to escort prisoners from jails

and police stations to court, and look after them during detention in cells

Gulf between theory practice

About a year ago, Home Office civil servants responsible for monitoring the privatised prisoner escort service declared themselves satisfied with all aspects of training undertaken by

Securicor custody officers. Yesterday, it appeared that they had revised their opinion in the light of events at Brentford magistrates court on the day of Peter Austin's death.

Securicor is one of four private companies with a Home Office contract to escort prisoners from jails and police stations to court, and to look after them during detention in cells. Securicor - which was awarded a contract for London three years ago - runs a course designed to train its employees to the same standard as prison officers. It covers legal issues, prisoner management, security. supervision and first aid.

quest was the gulf between theory and practice, particularly in the area of suicide awareness and prevention. The seven custody staff on duty at Brentford would have received three hours of training on how to recognise potentially suicidal behaviour and provide support where needed.

All testified that Mr Austin exhibited signs of heing dis-turbed. At Chiswick police station, he had tried to cut his wrists with a plastic fork and was seen three times by a police surgeon. The documents that accompanied him to court stated that he was mentally ill and a persistent drug user. Shortly after arriving, he launched an unprovoked atMichaela Tottey. He also requested medication and said he had heen "hearing voices".

He was not placed under

NEW THE

special watch, even after smearing excrement around his cell. Dr Stuart Carne, the police surgeon, said he would have expected Mr Austin not to be left alone after such an incident. Securicor's staff instruction

booklet tells them to seek medical assistance for prisoners who are thought to be ill. Roger Clark, the supervisor at Brentford, did not call a doctor initially because Mr Austin was "not physically ill".

When he was discovered hanging, the guards believed he What emerged from the in- tack on a Securicor guard, feet were touching the floor. A was feigning, partly because his

conversation about it ensued. The question of calling an ambulance was not discussed

How much time elapsed remains unclear. Miss Tottey went to have "a peep" at him but said she "wasn't opening that door for anybody after what he had done to me that day". Deficiencies in training were See!

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highlighted by medical witnesses. Dr Iain West, a senior pathologist, said that in a significant minority of hanging cases, the feet are on the ground. With about 60 suicides a year

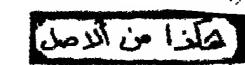
by people in custody, the Prison Service places a high priority on the problem. Penal groups say most prisoners in private escort companies' care are on remand or about to begin a sentence categories acknowledged to be the highest suicide risks.

Securicor says it will now conduct its own inquiry interthe Austin death. Until the suspension of their certificates yesterday, the officers had seen working in similar jobstand have not received extra tra Securicor said it had not considered suspending thems-

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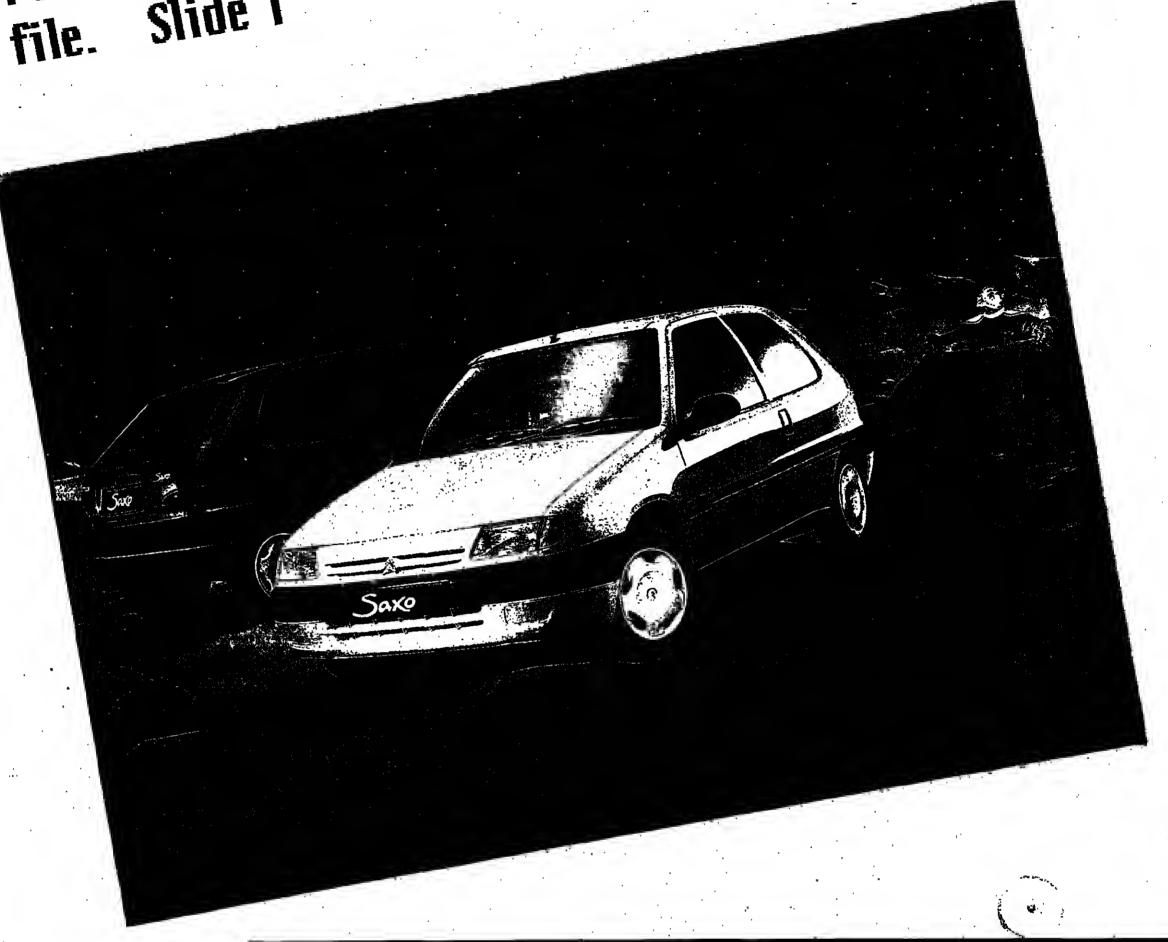
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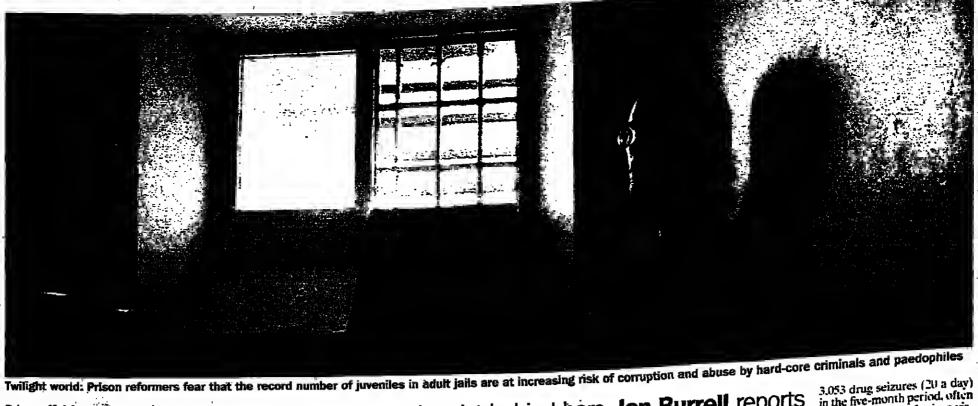
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Prison officials are coocerned that juveniles being held in adult jails are being recruited into child-sex rings by paedonhile prisoners. Child sex rings may already exist behind bars. Ian Burrell reports The papers conclude: "This ones General Sir David Ramsdonlile prisoners." Wetherby prison, in West Ynrk-street the bars have been recruited into child-sex rings by paedon the prisoners. In the Chief Inspector of Prisoners. In the Chief Inspector o

that two boys who were being shire, the boys have heen reprison were allowed into contact with a convicted paedophile calted Belcher.

held on remand at Doncaster ceiving letters frnm Belcher and have been sent money last month by another man de-scribed as "a colleague of the Since being moved tn paedophile"

gives] rise to fears that they may be in danger of being drawn into a paedophile ring.

Last week, large numbers of veniles were transferred nut nf Doncaster prison.

hotham, has told friends he was receotly horrified to discover that a juvenile affender. who had been the victim of a paedophile, was being held in the same unit nf Cardiff prison

as the man who abused him. With the prison population at a record high, juveniles – aged 15 to 17 – are now being held in nearly half of Britain's jails and chronic overcrowding makes it difficult to keep them separate from adult inmates.

Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, described the situation as "appalling". He said: There is a danger that we will begin to see in prisons a mirror image of the cor-

ruption and ahuse that has been found in care homes. The issue was one of several security problems arising in the first five months of this year, discussed vesterday at a private meeting in London convened by Tony Pearsoo, the prison ser-

vice's director of security. Special Branch has been warned that a group of up to seven men with Irish accents were observed filming the perimeter wall at Briston prison in London in April.

The men who were also seen to be monitoring the movements of prison vans were challenged by prisoo staff as it became apparent that the film crew was not authorised. Police were called to search the area but found nothing.

The security papers give a re-veating insight into the day-today life in Britain's jails with 7.387 security incidents being reported in the five-month penod - an average of 49 incidents

Drug abuse is the most regularly-reported problem with icised to opposition.

3.053 drug seizures (20 a day) in the five-month period, often in the possession of prison visitors. Drugs have been detected in Valentine's and hirthday cards, food flasks, felt-tip pens and babies' napples.

Scooby, a drugs-detecting dng at Garth prison in Lan-cashire, is repeatedly singled out for praise. In April, he detected £1.000 worth of heroin in a halloon conceuled in the waistband of a visitor's trousers.

Flashpoints

in the first five months of this year there have been: Thirty six deaths, 60 escapes and 444 cases of prisoners absconding while

A totat of 1,566 assaults - an average of about 10 a day. Boiling water is a favoured weapon. There have been 11 senous scalding incidents, the worst being an attack on a warder at Elmtey prison in March which left the victim with 12 per cent burns to his face. neck and chest.

Prison staff have had to deal with 29 bamcade incidents, 229 fires, 36 outbreaks of unrest, and a dozen "dirty protests". The documents also reveal an increasing trend among violent inmates of trying to kidnap female

staff members.

The documents reveal the current strain on the service and help to explain why Jack Straw. the Home Secretary, has bowed to pressures created by a record 61,000 jail population and agreed to the continued use of ship, both of which he had crit-

Sex, drugs and hostages: a diary of disturbance

1 January 1997, Styal, Cheshire: A mob of 150 lemale prisoners burst out of their cell blocks for a mass snowball fight in the exercise yard. While staff look on, the prisoners sing in the New Year and return to their cells nearly two hours later. 7 January, The Verne, Dorset: Officers investigating noise and the smell of hooch

are threatened by prisoners who light a bonfire in a prison wing, smash windows and wreck offices 10 January, Portland, Dorset: A 9mm bullet is found in the drain from the

shower room 19 January, Albany, Isle of Wight: The fire brigade is called after a convicted robber gets his head stuck between the bars of his cell window. He is

cut Iree after an 20-21 January, Full Sutton, York: Riots squads are calted in as 70 inmates take control of two wings and go on the rampage 31 January, Kingston. Portsmouth: A

convicted mur-

McAliskey: Security alert

derer stabs an officer with a pair of scissors. 9 February, Chelmsford, Essex: A convicted thief tells staff that he has swallowed a razor blade. He is sent to the prison health centre.

23 February, Whitemoor, Cambridgeshire: Michael Ledlie, a serial rapist known as the Southall Stalker who used his job as a window cleaner to carry out six attacks on women, attempts to take a female prison officer hostage. The officer struggles free. Ledlie later admils he had been planning the attack for months and had stockpiled food in his cell

4 March, Sudbury, Der-byshire: Five minutes before midnight a car crashes through the prison gates. The driver, covered in blood from cuts to his arms and legs, asks to be locked up. His common law wife is later lound dead at his home. 5 March, Bullingdon, Oxfordshire: Charles Bronson. described as Britain's most dangerous prisoner, asks to see a solicitor. He snatches the lawyer's fountain pen and holds it to his throat before taking him hostage. Bronson later gives himself up. 5 March, Bullingdon: Homemade crossbow is found beneath the pool table. 16 March, Lancaster: A wheelchair-bound woman visitar is found smuggling drugs

including heroin and cannabis 16 March, Builwood Hall, Essex: A woman serving four years for blackmail attacks a nurse with a razor blade, 31 March, Holloway, London: Nine women stage a protest after being barred from the Easter Bonnet parade which

they had planned to disrupt. 15 April, Brixton, London: Three men with Irish accents are challenged while monitoring prison van movements. Security cameras reveal other men filming the perimeter wall. 22 May, Stoke Heath, Shropshire: Gang warfare breaks out between prisoners from Manchester and Stoke. Four are treated for cuts. 23 May, Holloway: Police bomb disposal squad called to deal with package from ireland. Found to contain homeopathic medicine intended to help lerrorist suspect Roisin McAliskey in childbirth

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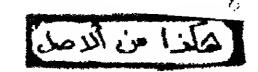
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US faces call to compensate for Qana dead

Beirut

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The Lebanese speaker of parliament has asked government officials in find nut whether Lebannn can sue the United States for deaths and damage caused by Israel's use of American shells, missiles and bombs against Lebanon.

Nabih Berri, the Shia Muslim leader of the Amai movement a prominent Shia militia during the Lebanese civil war - made his proposal in response to Ameri-ca's refusal to force Israel in pay \$1.773.618 (about £1.08m) for the damage and displacement caused by its shelling of the UN base at Qana on 18 April last year io which 109 Lebanese civilians were slaughtered.

Mr Berri, who represents south Lebanese constituents in parliameot, has asked Lebanese diplomats at the UN in New York for a list of legal actions which might be taken against the US administration as well as oames of American lawyers who would be prepared to take the Clinton administration to court. "We should file a lawsuit for compensation to the families of more than 100 children and civilians killed in the headquarters of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanoo (Unifil) because American arms were the reason [for their deaths]," Mr Berri announced.

He was speaking shortly before The Independent revealed this week that most of the bombs and missiles used in Israel's Operations Grapes of Wrath last year - in which almost 200 civilians and 14 members of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah were killed - were "transfers" from stocks of American weapons originally manufactured for the US armed forces. Two Hellfire missiles fired by the Israelis at an ambulance on 13 April last year came from a supply of rockets that were made for the US Ma-



to file for compensation

rine Corps and subsequently transferred to Israel, Four children and two women died in the attack on the ambulance.

Mr Berri, who must win the support of the Lebanese cabinet if his proposal is to be taken up, believes US courts could be forced to hear a Lebanese suit against the US government; he is also well aware of the anger expressed by US diplomats when Lebanoo originally called for Israel to pay for the effects of the Qana massacre. The Israelis said they were aimmg at a group of Hizbollah men near Qana who were firing mortars at Israeli troops - who in turn were placing booby-trap bombs in the UN zone.

US officials at the UN, it is understood, threateoed to change the UN mandate in southern Lebanon - reducing its area of operations and thus placing more villages inside Israel's occupation zone - if the Lebanese did not give up their demand, Lebanon refused and gained the support of the European Union, Israel refused to pay any damages for the Qana

The Lebanese are under no illusions about the effect its law suit could have. "We are a small country and we cannot drive Israel out of the south," a government source said yesterday. But there is international law and we know that much of the ammunition fired at our civilians by Israel comes from American. Why should Washingtoo not be made to pay for this?"

pro-Israeli diplomacy has just about reached its end in Lebanon. The situation was not helped when Richard Jones. US ambassador to Lebanon explained that his country's rejection of a UN Geoeral Assembly vote for Israel to pay damages was prompted by Washington's belief that the matter should have been debated in the Security Council - where, of course. it would have been vetoed by the United States.



Rescue mission: A donkey checked by a member of the World Society for the Protection of Animals' disaster relief team in Montserrat, in the Caribbe where volcanic eruptions since July 1995 have resulted in many animals being abandoned, sick and starving

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Insults fly as Bibi fights for political life iex. drugs and stages: a diag Patrick Cockburn

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Even by the standards of Benjamin Netanyahu's government it was a low blow. In a oo-con-fidence motion Tzahi Hanegbi, the Justice Minister, repeated-ly pronounced the name of Ehud Barak, the Labour party leader, as "Barach", which in Hebrew means "fled" or "ran away." This was an uncharitable reference to allegations that in 1992 Mr Barak, theo army chief of staff, left the scene of an army training accident before all the wounded were treated.

The charge outraged Labour members of the Knesset and much of the media. They pointed out that Mr Hanegbi had only just escaped indictment over the appointment of Roni Bar-On, a political crony, as at-torney-general earlier in the year. As a studeot at Hebrew University in Jerusalem he had allegedly hired thugs with chains to beat up Palestinians. Like maoy of Mr Ne-

tanyahu's manoeuvres the at-tack on Mr Barak was more cunning than it looked. It diverted attention from the virulent feuds within the Prime Minister's coalition which in the past 10 days have come close to tearing it apart. Mr Netanyahu won the vote in the 120-mem-ber Knesset by 55-50, but 11 members of his coalition refused to vote for him. David Levy, his Foreign Minister, abstained and earlier in the day refused to return the Prime Minister's phone calls:

Mr Netanyahu's career has been built on escaping political disaster by the skin of his teeth.

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He may do so again, if only because his many ecemies inside and outside his coalitioo cannot unite against him. Despite victory in the Knesset vote, the turmoil in his coalition is so great that by the end of summer Mr Netanyahu may be forced to call elections, reorganise his coalition or replace it with a nationalunity government. It is also conceivable that if 80 Knesset members vote against him, there would be elections for the prime minister but not the

The most dangerous crisis facing Mr Netanyahu revolves around the three leading members of his government. Mr Levy has a long-held ambition to be prime minister. Ariel Sharon, the Infrastructure Minister, on whom the Prime Minister has recently been forced to rely, wants to be finance minister and join the inner cabinet.
This is a troika consisting of Mr
Netanyahu, Mr Levy and
Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister, which decides oo negotiations with the Pales-

tinians and defence policy.
Other crises facing Mr Ne-tanyahu can probably be re-solved. One threat comes from Dan Meridor, the Finance Minister, who resigned last week, and Benny Begin, who quit over the Hebroo deal with the Palestinians. Known as "the princes" because they are the sons of party leaders, they both have a record of ineffectuality.

the Russian-minigrant party, who last week was refusing to return Mr Netanyahu's calk, has been bought off with a deal which gives more money to the

Russian community. In last year's poll Israelis for the first time voted separately for the prime minister and the Knesset. The result was political fragmentation. The largest parties, Labour and Likud, together woo 56 seats outs of 120 and have to rely on allies. The result has been to encourage po-litical paralysis. The issues at stake are generally personal. This weakens Mr Netanyahu but it prevents his overthrow. The real danger for him lies in the disaffection of Mr Levy and senior cabinet members.

Court subpoenas Winnie Mandela

Johannesburg

Four years after President Nelson Mandela's former wife Winnie was convicted of kidnapping and beating a Soweto schoolboy - later killed by her notorious bodyguards - The murder of Stompie Seipei Moeketsi, 14, has returned to haunt her.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), set up to investigate the atrocities of the apartheid era, has announced being subpoenaed to appear before a private hearing later this month in connection with former guards - nicknamed the Mandela United Football Club - including club "coach" Jerry Richardson, who was jailed for an attempt to win amnesty. his part in Stompie's death.

Madikizela-Mandela should be prepared to answer

questions that reach far beyond Stompie's murder. Dumisa take place in the next few weeks - will take place in private, the Ntsebeza, head of the cominission's investigative unit, said TRC investigators had uncovered new information about the club a operations. Former club members' applications apparently reveal new details not just about their own activities but those of their mistresses.

The commission is refusing to confirm an internal leak that the information concerns as many as 11 murders or a newspaper that Ms Madikizela-Mandela is report that the TRC had received a map of a mine shaft in Johannesburg where the bodies of other Soweto children were amnesty applications from ber dumped. But South African newspapers have quoted com-mission "sources" saying former team members are "singing" in

Although the commission hearing involving Ms Madik-izela- Mandela - expected to

TRC is allowed to release information at its own discretion. It can turn its findings over to the criminal courts. Stompie was kidnapped from

a church home in Soweto in 1989 and taken to Ms Madikizela-Mandela's home where he was severely beaten. The President's former wife claimed she took the teenager because he was being sexually abused. Although charged with murder.

Ms Madikizela-Mandela was convicted only of kidnapping and beating the boy. She was sentenced to six years in jail but this was later reduced to a fine.

Since the murder trial the fortunes of the once undisputed Mother of the Nation have fluctuated wildly. Mr Mandela appointed her deputy minister for arts and culture but later sacked her for insubordination.

Last year the President divorced her after a four-year separation, making it clear that while she bravely kept the cause alive during his long incarceration they had had no real relationship after his release. Few would deny the pressure ahe was under during the apartheid years. But even before Stompie's death her excesses were an embarrassment to the African National Congress.

Earlier this year she proved her grass-roots support at least has not died when she romped home in the elections for the leader of the ANC Women's League. But her overall fall from grace was underlined in the South African newspapers yesterday. Beneath the frontpage story of her summons by the TRC was a headline announcing President Mandela is to holiday in Britain in July with his "sweetheart" Graca Machel.



Spiritual lift: The artist formerly known as Prince (left) joining Muhammad Ali for a Washington news conference announcing the World Live Carrier ing the World Healing Project and Honors Benefit Concert to be held in October in Los Angeles. Photograph: Laura Camden

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UN to phase pull-out from East Slavonia

The special UN administration for the Serb area of Eastern Slavonia in Croatia will be dismantled in two stages under plans released in New York yesterday.

In a report to the Security Council, the Secretary General. Kofi Annan, proposed halving by mid-August personnel numbers deployed in Untaes, the United Nations Transitional Administration in Eastern Slavonia. Under Mr Annan's plan, which is likely to get Security Council support, the Untaes numbers would fall from 5.000 troops to just above 2,500 in August and to just 720 by October if all goes smoothly.

The prerequisite for an eventual withdrawal of Untaes. Mr Annan said, was the "full cooperation of the Croatian government which bears responsibility of convincing the local population that reintegration of the people of the region is sustainable. David Usborne - New York

Pyongyang agrees to talks

Exactly 47 years after the beginning of the Korean War. North Korea vesterday agreed to multilateral talks on bringing about lasting peace involving North and South Korea, as well as their wartime allies, China and the

"Pyongyang has accepted a suggestion that senior officials meet around early August to set an agenda and other details for the peace talks," said one South Korean

Efforts to lure North Korea to the negotiating table have been going on since April last year, when the four-way talks were first proposed by Bill Clinton and the way talks were first proposed by Long Sam.
South Korean president, Kim Young Sam.
Richard Lloyd Parry - Tokyo

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Banana slates rape allegation

Canaan Banana, former president of Zimbabwe, has slated allegations that he raped a male police aide. Mr Banana (pictured) said accusations he had forced police inspector Jefta Dube to perform homosexual acts over three years were "pathological lies".

"How many times am I going to repeat that I am not a homosexual?" the Methodist minister and diplomat

snapped in the BBC interview. President Robert Mugabe has called same-sex partners

lower than dogs and pigs". AP - Harare Push for vote on the Queen

Australia's left-wing opposition parties vowed to push for an early popular vote on becoming a republic, as political hrawling threatened to sink an official debate on the issue. The Labor opposition and the Australian Democrats said they would propose a referendum within two years on whether or not the Queen should be ditched.

Conservative Prime Minister John Howard has threatened to cancel a convention on a republic over Labor and Democrat insistence on a compulsory vote for the 76 elected delegates, instead of the voluntary postal ballot suggested by government. Reuters - Canberra

SPD successor

The powerful economics minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, Wolfgang Clement, will succeed Johannes Rau as premier of Germany's most populous state before the next general elections in 1998.

The Hamburg-based weekly Die Woche said Clement and Rau had reached an agreement at a meeting of state Social Democratic (SPD) party leaders last week. Mr Clement said he and Rau had settled the issue in private in May, Mr Rau is considered a leading candidate for the SPD in the 1999 presidential election.

Hashimoto marks war deaths



The Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, laid a wreath at a monument to Dutch victims of Japan's Second World War occupation of the Dutch East Indies. Mr Hashimoto, who was in the Nelherlands to atlend the annual summit meeting hetween Japan and the European Union, placed the white floral wreath on a stand, stepped hack and made two solemn bows.

Dutch historians estimate that almost 20,000 Dutch civilians and prisoners of war perished in Japanese detention camps, while about 200 Dutch women and girls

Reuters - The Hague



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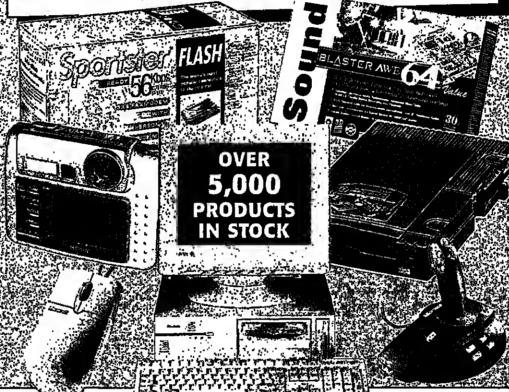
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Tribal militias mass for war

Sierra Leone's native warriors are mobilising to confront the military junta.

Michael Ashworth in Freetown reports

Civil war threatens to sweep Sierra Leone as tribal militias mobilise against the country's military junta. The militias, known as the Kamajors, can count on more than 17,000 fighters, and control much of the south

and east of the country.

The army ousted Sierra Leone's elected president on 25 May. Despite the military intervention of Nigeria, Major Johnny Paul Koroma, the coup leader says he has no intention of surrendering power to President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. But now the militias are on the move.

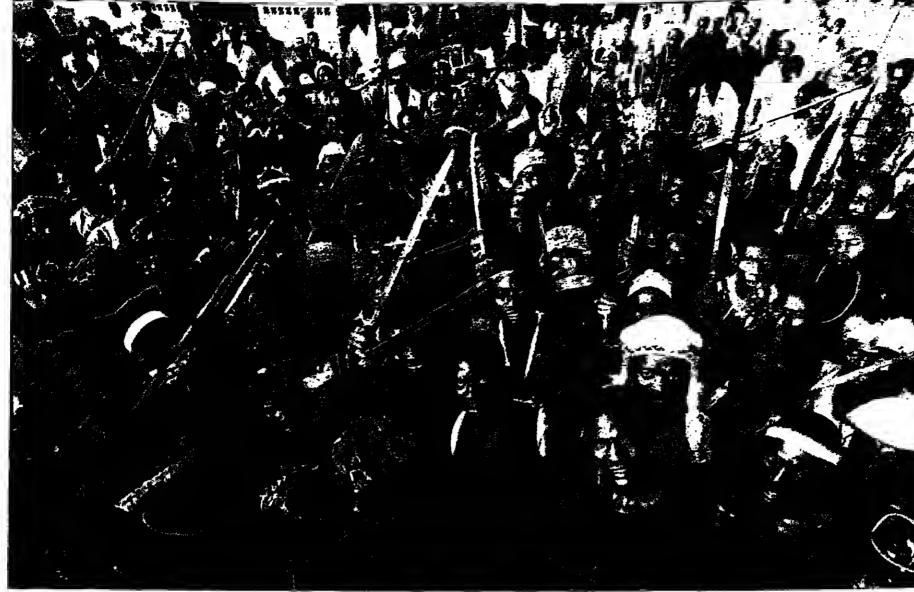
Skirmishes around Bo, the second largest town in Sierra Leone, have drawn troops away from the capital and into the interior. At present, the army holds the town but the militias are gearing up for an assault on army

An air of tension hangs over the motley group of soldiers that man the checkpoints on the edge of Kama-jor-controlled territory. They huddle in small groups in the shade, smoking cigarettes and talking in subdued voices. Corporal "M16" wants to ex-change two grenades for cigarettes. while his commanding officer im-plores him to take up his "deployment position".

A pick-up truck mounted with a .50 calibre machinegun and laden with soldiers bounces up a dirt track towards the checkpoint. As the car turns a corner the man hehind the machinegun loses his balance and topples over, his helmet bouncing off the truck and on to the road.

"We are professional soldiers who have done a good job in bringing peace to our country by joining with our rebel brothers," says "M16", wearing flip-flops and a yellow duster as a neck scarf. The day before, this contingent was ambushed by the Kamajors; but none of the soldiers seems to want to talk about it.

Ten miles down the road towards the Kamajor-controlled town of Kenema is another checkpoint manned



by a uniform, but outlandish, group of men. More than 200 warriors from the Boama chiefdom straddle the road, their grim faces streaked with war paint, their hessian overalls adorned with myriad mirrors and colourful tribal fetishes.

Slung on their hacks are rocketpropelled grenades and Kalasbnikovs; their waist-belts glint with daggers, machetes and cutlasses, Unlike their army counterparts 10 miles away, they are in a jubilant but blood-thirsty mood. "Tell them [the army] to be afraid, very afraid, we are coming for them soon," said Alonsus Wanga. He holds a bone frag- to join them in government, has in-

ment wrapped in silver foil which, he says, "throbs" when his enemies are near. Thankfully, for the moment it

Historically the Kamajors evolved as the first line of defence against the RUF, the revolutionary movement that has plagued Sierra Leone since 1991. With the assistance of a foreign security company, the Kamajors managed to bring the rebels to heel last year, which allowed for free elections and a peace accord signed in Abidjan last November. The recent coup by the army and the invitation to their supposed enemies, the RUF,

furiated this formidable force, which is threatening to march on the capital. Freetown.

Their strong animistic and superstitious beliefs have bound them into a highly effective force that presents the most immediate threat to the junta and makes them a powerful ally of the Kabbah government

We want democracy in this country. We want Kabbah to return. These military guys and rebels are criminals and we will fight to save our land," says the chief of the Boama Kamajors, Hassan Sallu. He holds up a buck horn that is supposed to pro-

vide a protective shield to people in According to one nervous army

sergeant in Bo: "They do not know the meaning of tactical withdrawal. They fight to the last man". The RUF is also fearful of them, having suffered numerous defeats in the past year. The Kamajors believe, as do many

of their enemies and followers, that they are endowed with magical powers. "They can become invisible when they want to, and bullets sometimes bounce off them," says Mollai Bangula, a taxi-driver from Freetown. Chief Hassan, or as he is more commonly known, "the Chief

Tough Guy, goes into battle with no weapon but his hand, which, he claims. "I just point at my enemies

and they are destroyed". Their superstitions have sometimes caused events to backfire. In one skirmish with the Kamajors last year, the RUF forced a group of naked women to run at them, knowing that the Kamajor consider such a sight to be bad luck. The Kamajors immediately took to their heels, allowing the RUF to escape.

But in general, they have proven to be highly effective and determined bush fighters. They were far more effective than the army in turting out reservations will harden.

War cry: Members of the Kamajor (civilian defence unit) for Kenema gathering for an initiation ceremony yesterday in which they shot bullets over their heads to make themselves bullet-proof

Photograph: Tom Finnie



rebels and they enjoy widespread grass-roots support. Their cries for the return of the Kabbah government are echoed both in and out of the country. With troops of the regional peacekeeping force ECOMOG reluctant to intervene in Sierra Leone. the Kamajors are the only group prepared to oust the junta by force.

Although the militias could be used as leverage in negotiations, they could also precipitate a bloody civil war. In this instance they have sided with the ousted president, but they are a law unto themselves and the growing militarisation of tribal groups does not bode well for the fu-

Meanwhile, in Freetown, the haemorrhage of money and invest-ment from the country, coupled with the refusal of public and private sector workers to return to work, is putting increasing financial pressure on a junta that can only marantee loyalty if it continues to pay its troops.

The alliance between the army and

rebels stands firm, but a few soldiers are now expressing reservations about working with their former enemies. As the money runs out, these



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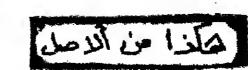
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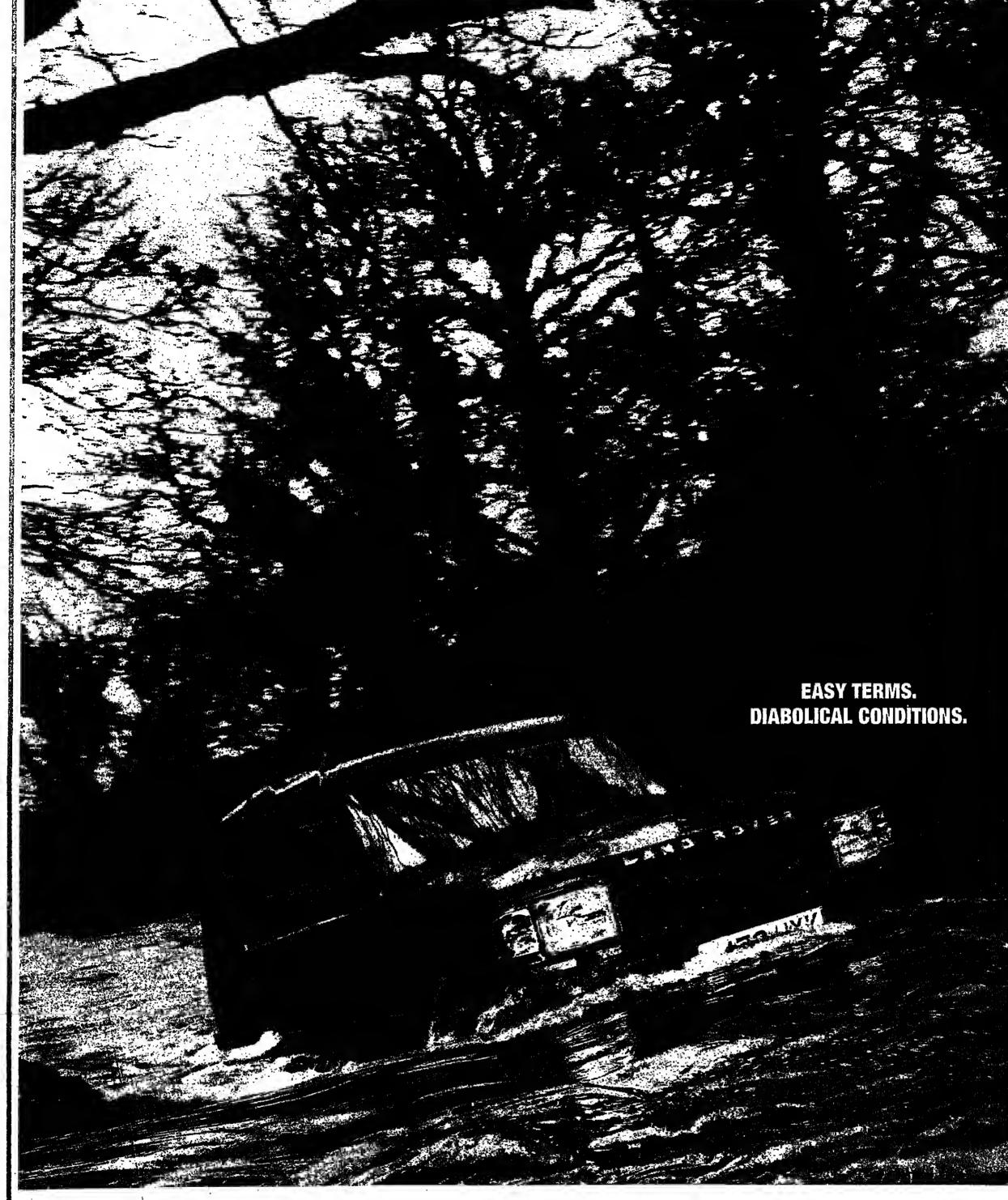
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Another origina

Hong Kong

'Last Emperor' who lays claim to democracy

The "Sinner for a Thousand Years", as Chinese officials have described him, has removed the crucifix from above his desk. The large pictures of his daughters are also in the packing-cases. The 28th and last governor of Hong Kong is ready to go, maybe not with a bang, but bardly with a whimper.

Chris Patten is not spending his last days in the colony giving a single inch to his oppo-nents. Last week a pro-Peking legislator was taken aback to be told publicly that he should not worry too much about the coming polls because the new masters would probably find a way of reinstalling him in the Legislative Council even if he lost the election.

Rita Fan, president of the Chinese-appointed provisional legislature, called Mr Patten 'Hong Kong's Last Emperor". He does not bat an eyelid when asked to comment. "I think", be says, "this is the emperor under whom she received her Commander of the British Empire; l think Γm the last departing emperor who was able to say that there's been more democChris Patten will go with his upper lip held stiff, he tells **Stephen Vines**

racy when this place was a colony than when I'm gone. I don't have the impression that Mrs Fan is a lover of democracv and accountability." Mr Patten does not regret in-

troducing a more representative form of government but says: What I would do if I had my time over again would be not to spend so long talking to them. We established pretty quickly that Jiang Enzhu (China's chief negotiator) wasn't going to hudge, so we spent 170 hours, 17 rounds of seight Labours. 17 rounds of painful talks, trying to get them to move more tban a quarter of a millimetre. I think it would have been better if we had not talked so long but got on and legislated in 1993

He says he clearly remembers that "when we announced my

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rather than 1994.

proposals ... we did not know if we were going to be criticised more by China or the democrats. Some of us thought the later would be the case because Douglas Hurd [then Foreign Secretary] had told Qian Qichen [his Chinese counterpart) 10 days before I made my speech what we had in mind and Qian listened, very interested, and said Thank you very much,

"I think", Mr Patten reflects, what particularly annoyed them was that I announced in public that I felt very strongly that the days when you could do these things secretly were over". The British feared a secret deal would be thrown out of the leg-islature, in the way the 1991 agreement on establishing a new court of final appeal bit the dust following secret Sino-British diplomacy.

The Governor is never shy about giving eloquent expres-sion to his misgivings about the new order. Yet he always says he is optimistic about the future. Surely there is some disjuncture here? He demurs. "First of all, I believe that the things which

are going to make Hong Kong survive are better long-term

bets than authoritarianism or to-

talitarianism or Leninism or

whatever you call it. Pluralism

is the sound of the future in Asia

and everywhere else."

Last of the line: Chris Patten reflecting on his time as the 28th and last governor of Hong Kong

handover

sound, good institutions, a ro-

bust economy, rich fabric of civ-

il society ... all CH (Tung, his

successor) has to do is to switch

on the engine. With less than a

Secondly, he believes that "the funds of Hong Kong are

Mr Patten says: "I have a very strong sense that my role in a sense is historically presump-tuous. It is high time for Hong Kong people to run Hong Kong I don't mean by that I want to walk away and say it's up to you; it's nothing to do with me, but ultimately the sort of place Hong Kong is, is the re-sult of the sort of relationship Hong Kong people have with Peking. Maybe it would be easer to work that out when I'm

not around."

week to go before it is all over, in training but he admits to having felt a twinge when recently exchanging toasts with the Gov-ernor of Macau during which he quoted a passage from Confucius about how a gentleman should be defined: "He who behaves with honour in being sent on a mission to the four corners of the world will not hring disgrace to his lord".
"I found myself", he says,

*having some difficulty in getting that out". But Mr Patten does not regret being away from Britain during when his

vindicated: "The Almighty has demonstrated that he's a Lancastrian. I've been very lucky to have been here".

■ Hong Kong's "first dogs", Whisky and Soda, will leave for France tomorrow, Reuters reports. The pair, whose antics often hit the headlines and provided material for cartoonists, received their inoculations yesterday before their flight to Toulouse.

Soda made the headlines in 1992 when she disappeared for four days, prompting jokes of Mr Patten bas been warned by one of his aides "not to blub" as he leaves. His upper lip is now party was ejected from office. The devout Catholic Liver- Dog is a winter delicacy in pudlian believes his faith was

Patten turned down UN post in Bosnia

The outgoing Governor of Britannia with Prince Charles to Hong Kong insists that he has no plans for his next job but disclosed that he was sounded out to succeed Carl Bildt as the United Nations envoy in Bosnia. He says he turned down the offer because he needed a break, writes Stephen Vines.

In an interview with The Inpendent, Chris Patten said: "I thought about it. What put me off was not Bosnia, what put me off was I genuinely wanted to have a pause in my life."

Mr Patten said that the ap-

proach came from Mr Bildt. When he leaves Hong Kong, in the early bours of Tuesday morning, he will sail on HMS

Manila then take a holiday in the United States, before settling down in France to write a book about Asia, and tend his garden.

"I need that period. I'm in my early fifties. I've done a series of quite tough jobs. I need a period to decide what baggage to baggage I want to acquire and what I mean to do next.

Although many of his Conservative colleagues are keen for Mr Patten to return to parliament, he is undecided. "I don't know whether I want to be involved in politics," he said. "Of course. I'm going to keep an eye

open on what is happening in Britain and Europe and of course, I intend in due course, to speak about issues I care about."

Mr Patten clearly indicated that he wished to remain in public service. His friends say he is keen to find an international post but, he says, despite the belief that he can slip into a plum international job "there are hardly any" to be had. The Blair government is far less likely to nominate him for one than the outgoing administration.

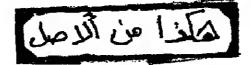
Fortunately for Mr Patten, he will not have any immediate problems. As outgoing Governor he will receive a severance payment of almost £300,000.





Training haul to

Dem left 0



Hong Kong



handover

Democrats' leader left out in the cold

Hong Kong

Madeleine Albright, US Sec-retary of State, has asked for a meeting. Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, has asked for a meeting. But Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, does not appear to have arranged to meet Hong Kong's most prominent democratic potitician, the man most likely to be put behind bars if China

gets tough.
Yesterday Martin Lee's office said they had not beard from Mr Cook, who flies to Hong Kong tomorrow. Mr Lee, chairman of Hong Kong's largest party, the Democrats, refused to comment, though be is known to be disappointed by the apparent lack of interest. Yesterday Mr Cook's officials said they expected a meeting but Mr Lee's office said none had heen

Four days before the han-dover, the letter may still be in the post. A full-blown snub would be almost unthinkable; some kind of meeting will take

He was scathing, too, about Lee Kuan Yew, the Singapore-an leader, whom he met yes-



place. But some in Hong Kong fear that, despite the new ethical foreign policy, democratic troublemakers are as liule loved in the new Foreign Office as they were in the old. Chris Patten, Governor from 1992, beat the drum on the democrats' behalf during his five years in office. But the support from his colleagues in London was not always what he would have wished for, as he makes clear in

his farewell remarks opposite.

terday. Mr Lee, who talks of attend the controversial swear "Asian values" and "Confucian ing-in of the Peking-approved ing-in of the Peking-approved tegislature, which Ms Albright values" in defence of his teadand Mr Blair had aiready said ership style, this week attacked the democratic reforms in Hong they will boycott. Britain fol-Kong, saying they were a "be-lated and misconceived effort". lowed suit, saying Francis Cornish, now trade commissioner Mr Patten replied in kind, say-ing to the Independent: "Why do and soon to be its senior diplomat in the territory, will represent Britain at the swearing-in. e assume that Lee Kuan Yew is the embodiment of Asian val-A Democratic spakesman ues, rather than [Burmese op-

said: "Either it's OK to wipe out position leader] Aung San Suu Kyi or Martin Lec? He's an elodemocratic institutions [in oth-er words, Hong Kong's existing Legislative Council] or it's not. quent advocate of authoritari-There's no middle road." But an government. They're not necessarily Asian, certainly not the US said Mr Boucher had to attend because he would have to work "for better or worse tinue, as the countdown to the with the new legislature. The Foreign Office insisted Britain handover continues. Tony Blair is to meet the Chinese Presistill "adamantly opposed" the dent, Jiang Zemin, in an ennew legislature. counter expected to last an hour, shortly before the han-



Toast to the future: Paul Pun, his wife, Elaine, and their children enjoying their evening meal

Training for the long haul to democracy

China will liquidate the elected Hong Kong Legislative Council, on which I have served for the past five years, as its first sov-ereign act. On 1 July, no one sitting on either the legislature or in district assemblies will be there in an elected capacity. I don'tlike any of this.

rned down

in Bosnia

A friend advised me not to complain too much. It is not politically correct to talk about wha makes us unhappy. Sorry to tleat again to public. It soones my pain slightly.

However, I also know that I need to be able to draw on a source of positive energy that will keep me going, because I must noy go into sustained training fora series of marathons.

never thought that I would give up my business career to tale up politics full-time, hut that is what I have done. This iswhat I want to do for the next If years. I want to be in polites because it is a good, direct, way to promote social change. Over the last five years, I earnt that changing policy and



Changing lives: An occasional column by the leading Hong Kong democrat Christine Loh

law takes time. Often, the ground has to be prepared in order to be able to galvanise enough support for change. This process might take several attempts. There are few shortcuts. I need to give myself a decade to see what can be achieved.

ARRY FEIGN

I believe passionately that people have the right to know what their government is doing, to be able to question those in power and to hold them accountable for their decisions. I know that there are many Hong Kong people who want to promote political representation and participation, the rule of law, personal freedoms, tolerance, diversity, kindness and environmentalism. It is up to us to articulate this vision of what Hong Kong can be, and to cre-

Confucian values."

The diplomatic minuets con-

dover on Monday night. After

all the friction of recent months

over the handover ecremony,

there is now talk of possible vis-

its by the two leaders to Lon-

The US said Ricbard Bouch-

don and Peking.

ate it together. I want to play the role of that alternative voice and present another vision to authoritarian conservatism and élitism. I want to be able to offer different solutions to the problems we face.

What is required is ingenuity, creativity and support from like-minded people. I have faith that this is possible. Hong Kong people must hold true to their values, and take an active part in public affairs and the collec-

tive decision-making process.

In other words, we must practise democracy. This is something relatively new for Hong Kong. We were never en-couraged to take an active interest in politics as colonial subjects and the challenge now is to break out of that mould. We must never again he bystanders to our own future.

The foreign journalists now in Hong Kong all ask essentially the same question: hut is it possible under Chinese rule?

I can't give a definitive answer. The focus should not be all on China, what it will and will not allow. Hong Kong can ex-ert itself too. Maybe we have not done enough and our voice has not been heard. Influence is not only a mat-

ter of relative size. China is huge and Hong Kong is tiny. Yet, the influence that our community of 6.3 million people exerts is totally disproportionate to our size. Why is Hong Kong able to do that?

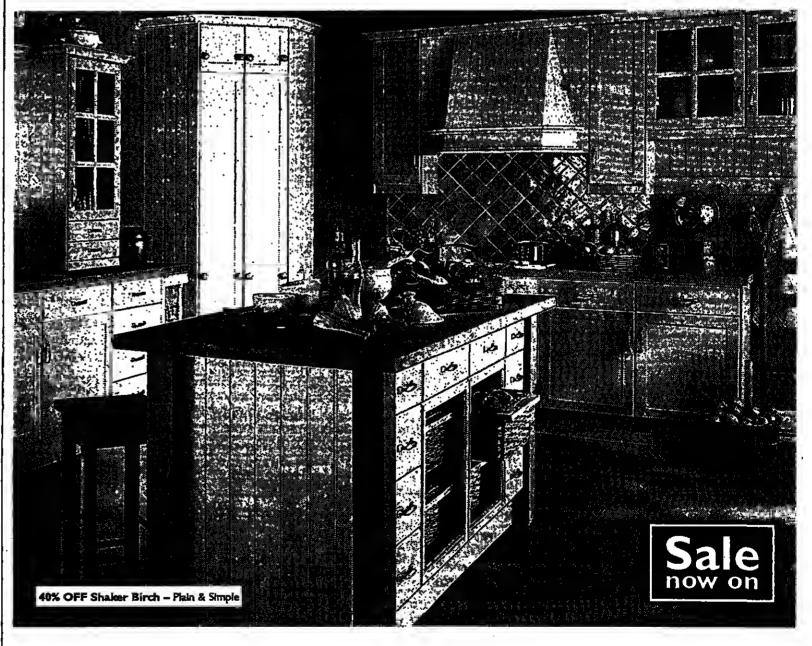
The spirit of Hong Kong is enterprise, liberty and modernity. Each of these are powerful draws. People from China, Asia and the West gravitate here because we offer this combination.

Hong Kong has good materials to work with. Despite my anxiety over China's intolerance, I need to embrace the future to be able to do my work. Time to do press-ups and lift weights.

Christine Loh is a legislator and chair of the newly formed Citizen's Party.

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Secrets of the flag man But as he regains his stami-

The man behind the new motif for Hong Kong is not wav-

ing but flagging.

Professor Xiao Hong had to
be admitted to hospital for
nine days suffering from exhaustion after attending too many official handover functions, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

The agency says he was the man who won first prize in the competition to design Hong Kong's post-colonial flag, an schievement which put him on the guest-list of many functions.

But as he regains his stami-na, a serious question arises; has the good professor been party-ing under false pretences? Professor Xiao may be har-bouring a guilty secret. Ten years ago, China launched a na-tionwide competition to design a flag for Hong Kong after the a flag for Hong Kong after the Union Flag came down on 30 June 1997, and received more than 7,000 entries. Six designs were shortlisted and in October

1989 they were all rejected. Then in December 1989, a panel of Chinese officials and Hong Kong artists announced that they had chosen the bauhinia blossom - the official

flower of Hong Kong - to represent the reintegrated region. The mainland co-convenor of the panel, Qian Weichang, said: "We've been scratching our heads for something that best represents Hong Kong. Some said junk, dragon and even money. We all agreed on the beuhinia," he said. There was no

mention of Professor Xiao. So the mystery remains bow the professor has managed to maintain his VIP status as prize flag-designer. His may indeed have been one of the six flag designs short-listed, but his hosts seem blissfully unaware that all

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Jacques Cousteau

As one of the world's most famous adventurers, Jacques Constean touched giant whales, befriended shy octopuses, confronted frenzied sharks. He produced and starred in almost a hundred films shown in scores of countries and hosted the most popular documentary and adventurer too, was to series in television history. The author or co-author of some 80 books, Cousteau also coinvented the aqualung, launched the science of undersea archaeology, advanced underwater photography, discovered oil beneath the ocean floor in the Persian Gulf, and huilt undersea stations and small submarines for oceanographic research.

Cousteau's inventions changed the way we view the world. His films and television shows transported several generations of viewers to exotic and faraway places, and his books educated millions ahout the wonders beneath the sea.

Yet Jacques Cousteau was perhaps revered less for his accomplishments than for his unique zest for life, his irrepressible curiosity, his youthful sense of wonder. "I spent my life," he said, "amazed by nature and dazzled by the experiences of life."

In private, however, the adventurer-filmmaker suffered and struggled. He endured chronic anaemia and enteritis as a child. His periodic artacks of neurasthenia produced nervous tension and malaise. He remained underweight and sus-ceptible to high altitudes, undersea pressures, and cold water.

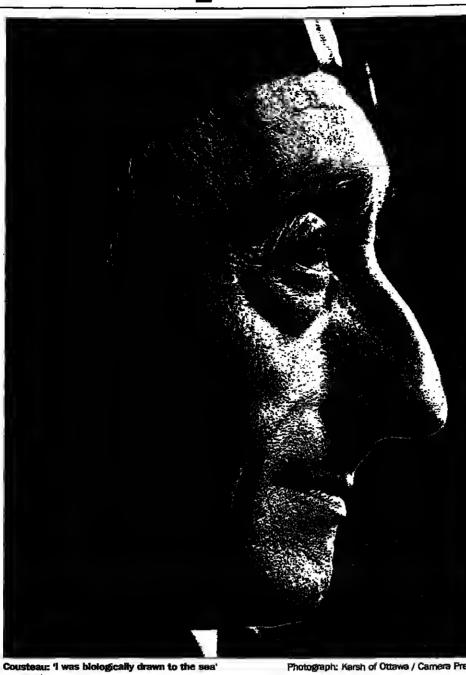
Cousteau hrushed against death several times: in 1936, when he crashed his father's Salmson on a foggy road in the Vosges Mountains and crushed several rihs, perforated his lungs, and severely fractured his left arm; in 1940, when he went into convulsions after descending too deeply with an experimental oxygen tank; in 1947, when he virtually collapsed from carbon monoxide poisoning at the bottom of the Fontaine-de-Vaucluse; and in 1955, when he beat back frenzied sharks with his camera.

Perhaps Cousteau's worst setback was the death of his youngest son in 1979. Philippe was landing his scaplane on the lagus Piver in Portugal when it flipped over and tore apart. The loss shattered Cousteau since Philippe, a film-maker have taken over and continued his father's work. The eldest son, Jean-Michel, returned for a short time to the family husiness, but then went off on his own.

Although Jacques Cousteau usually avoided reflections on his past, he conceded several years ago that his stimulating career demanded sacrifices. "I have a good wife and a good son, and I'm not complaining," he said. "But if I had it to do over again, 1 would not get married. It's impossible to he an adventurer and a hureaucrat at the same time, and, if you get married you should he a hureaucrat and have a stable job. I have tried to save the relationships in spite of my activities, hut I could have done

The sea, to which Cousteau 'did devote his attentions, delivered both joy and frustra-tion. "From the very first," he acknowledged. "my sense of wonder at the sea has alternated with a sense of revulsion." He admitted to having heen often attracted by a different kind of life, yet he gave himself over, body and soul, to undersea discovery. "My motive in seeking out new sites to explore, in diving even deeper, in staying helow even longer, in filming, in fighting, was, certainly, the satisfaction of my curiosity about the sea. But it was also an emotional, almost sexual need . . . I was hiologically drawn to the sea, hut I knew very well that 1 would never succeed in

possessing it totally." The second of two sons, Jacques-Yves Cousteau was born in Saint André-de-Cubzac, near Bordeaux, in 1910. No sooner did the young Cousteau enter the world than he was hundled up to accompany his itinerant family, his fa-



Photograph: Karsh of Ottawa / Carnera Press

travelling companion for unique features which engiwealthy Americans living in Europe, Jacques' earliest memory was of heing rocked to sleep in a train hammock.

He demonstrated diverse talents early. In 1921, at the age of 11, he borrowed the hlueprints for a 200-ton floating crane and hullt a 4ft electricther being a legal adviser and powered model, devising

neers later added to the larger structure. Two years later, after a family trip, he wrote, illustrated, typeset, and bound a hook entitled An Adventure in Mexico. At the age of 13, he used his allowance to purchase one of the first movie cameras to be sold in France. By 16 he was photographing and direct-

ing home-made melodramas, placing himself in front of and behind the camera.

Cousteau graduated in 1933 from the Ecole Navale in Brest, the national naval academy of France. In 1937, he married Simone Melchior, descended from three generations of French admirals. The couple had two sons: Jean-Michel,

born in 1938, and Philippe, born in 1939.

During the Second World War, Jacques served as a spy for the Allies within Vichy France, while his brother, Pierre-Antoine, became a German collaborator who wrote racist editorials against Jews, shrill denunciations of the resistance, and apologetic stories of Nazi actions. After the war. a French court condemned Pierre to death for his wartime activities. Jacques' display of loyalty to his collaborationist brother, even testifying at the trial in his formal officer's uniform hearing several war medals, haunted him throughout his three-decade-long naval career. Admirals informally labelled him as undisciplined and suspect. Cousteau would be given responsibilities, but he remained a captain while all his academy classmates who survived the war earned further

With financial support from wealthy British seafarer, Cousteau purchased and refurbished a war-surplus minesweeper in 1950, and christened it Calypso. That ship became famous throughout the world for its role with documentary films, industrial projects, and undersea habitations.

Cousteau's best-known feature-length movie, The Silent World, won an Oscar and the Grand Prize at the Cannes Film Festival in 1956. In the opening spectacle, five undersea explorers descended into the dark water, each holding a hright torch that sent a thick trail of silver hubbles perking hack up toward the surface. Sixty-five feet helow them, Cousteau floated in liquid space, recording the under-water flight of this torch team in order to reveal, for the first time to a large audience, the ocean's exquisite and colourful heauty.

Although three other pro-ducers released feature-length underwater films at the same time as The Silent World, only Cousteau (along with his co-producer, Louis Malle) edited heautiful images and good music into rhythmic, dramatic adventures. A natural artist who had long been fascinated with film, Cousteau had become a

master editor. Cousteau explained his approach toward undersea exploration as an "almost militant insistence on the necessity of man's presence in the water to arrive at a true understanding of that world". From Calypso's first expedition, Cousteau pushed his crew and the accompanying scientists to adopt his motto of personal observation: "Il faut aller voir" ("We must go and see for ourselves"). The creed translated into a unique documentary film style in which Cousteau's cameras focused as much on Calipso's crew as on undersea animals and plants. Moreover, it produced an anthropomorphic perspective on life within the sea. His television series The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau ran for eight years and was shown round the world.

In addition to his films. hooks, and inventions, Cousteau directed the Oceanographic Institute in Monaco, the oldest and largest undersea museum and research centre, and he founded the Cousteau Society, with offices in the United States and France. His ideas were as diverse as his activities, spanning the gulf hetween the practical and the visionary. He devised the useful aqualung, a breathing aid for divers, but he wrote surrealistic poetry. He built a corporate empire, including multi-million-dollar mannfacturing and construction firms. hut he believed husiness was inconsequential compared with the life of a pelican or a dolphin. Over a meal his conversation would range from French wine to whale communications to nuclear war to the phenomenon of the sun rising and setting each day. He played the piano, painted, composed poetry, and commented on international affairs. He spoke English and German fluently, understood Spanish, and read Russian.

"The Captain" was not, however, without his critics. While Cousteau claimed to have made

earthshaking scientific discryeries, leading occanographers complain that he focused more on showmanship than on science. And, although he hoasted that he had rescued countless endangered species and exposed the ecological dangers which are making mankind an equally endangered species, some ecologists argue that he failed to use his substantial political clout to protect the environment.

Yet Jacques Cousteau, talented and charismatic, was clearly one of the 20th century's great men. He transported us into worlds we would never have seen or could barely have

Richard Munson

Jacques-Ives Cousteau, marine explorer and film-maker born Saint André-de-Culzac, France 11 June 1910; inventor (with Emile Gagnan) of the aqualung 1943; Sounder, Groupe il Euides et de Recherches Sous-marines, Toulon 1946: founder, Campagnes Océanographiques Françaises, Marseilles 1950: founder, Office Français de Recherches Sous-marines (Centre d'Eudes Marines Avancées), Marseilles 1952: Director, Musée Océanographique, Monaco 1957-88: General Secretary, International Commission for Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sca 1966; founder, Cousteau Society 1973; member. Académie Française 1988-97; Chairman, Council on Rights of Future Generations 1993-97; films include The Sileni World 1956 (Academy Award 1956), The Golden Fish 1959 Licademy Award 1959), World Without Sun 1965 (Academy Award 1965), Voyage to the Edge of the World 1975. Cries from the Deep 1982, Riders of the Wind 1986. Lilliput in Antarctica 1990; television series include The Undersea World of Jacques Consteau 1968-76. The Cousteau Odyssey 1977-82, Cousteau/ Amazon 1982-85. Coostean/ Mississippi 1985: Cousteau/Rediscovery of the World 1985-97; married 1937 Simone Melchior (died 1990; one son, and one son deceased), 1992 Francine Triplet (one son, one daughter); died Paris

British snub

to new regime

in Hong Kong

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100

Brian Keith

Brian Keith was a hurly veteran of over 100 films, in which he appeared with such stars as Doris Day, Burt Lancaster, Charlton Heston, Roger Moore, Elizabeth Taylor and Gene Tierney.

Keith's parents were both actors. His father, Robert Keith, starred in such films as The Wild (1954), Love Me or Leave Me (1955) and Guys and Dolls (1955), hut Brian, despite having appeared in a silent film at the age of three, initially had no acting ambitions.

During the Second World War he served with the US Marine Corps as a machine gunner. After his release from the service, he finally succumbed to family tradition; his first adult screen role was with Charlton Heston in Arrowhead (1953). For the rest of the 1950s he darted from studio to studio, appearing in such action films as Alaska Seas (1954), The Violent Men (1955), Run of the Arrow (1957) and Fort Dobbs (1958). In the television series The

Westerner (1960) Keith played Dave Blassingame, a stonyfaced adventurer roaming the Keith in The Rare Breed, 1962 Mexican border accompanied

by a mongrel called Brown. That same dog had played the title role in the Disney film Old Yeller three years earlier.

Coincidentally, the Disney organisation offered Keith his next film; in The Parent Trap (1961), he and Maureen O'Hara were the divorced parents of twins, both played by Mills. The Hayle cerned the siblings' efforts (successful, of course) to reunite their parents. After The Parent Trap Keith suddenly found himself playing more sympathetic roles; in Disney's Those Cal-



Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

loways (1965) he played a likeable eccentric who, with the help of his adoring family, battles lo save a lake on which he intends to make a hird sanctuary.

Television producers too saw him in a different light, and he was starred in the sitcom Family Affair (1966-71), in which he played a carefree, wealthy bachplicated when three lovable young orphans are thrust upon him. His next sitcom, The Little People (later The Brian Keith Show), was filmed in Hawaii. The story of a father and daughter team of paediatricians running a clinic on a tropical island, it ran from 1972 until 1974. Thereafter. Keith regarded Hawaii as his adopted state and visited there as often as

> He made a personal success as President Teddy Roosevelt in the film The Wind and the Lion (1975) and appeared with Roger Moore in the James Bond film Moonraker (1979). He acted with Burt Reynolds in Hooper (1978), directed by Hal Needham. In 1981 he appeared in Sharkey's Machine, directed by Reynolds himself. Keith played an army officer, involved June 1997.

in an adulterous affair with Elizabeth Taylor, in John Huston's disastrous film Reflections in a Golden Eye (1967). Two years later, Keith appeared in another cinematic flop, Krakatoa, East of Java; the quality of

which can best be summed up

by the fact that Krakatoa is actually west of Java. After the failure of the Pete Ustinov comedy Charlie Chan and the Curse of the Dragon Queen (1981), Keith joked, "I only did the picture because it had a long title, and I seem to specialise in those" (he had previously appeared in The Russians are Coming, The Russians are Coming, 1966, With Six You Get Egg Roll, 1968, and Suppose They Gave a War and Nobody

Came, 1970). Brian Keith's most recent film appearances were in Young Guns (1988) and Welcome Home (1989).

Dick Vosburgh

Robert Brian Keuh, actor: born Bayonne, New Jersey 14 November 1921; married first Frances Helm. second Judith London, third Victoria Young died Los Angeles, California 24

Bohby Helms's career as a topflight country star was in every sense meteoric. In 1957 he was named Country Singer of the Year (Male) by Cashbar mag-azine; by the end of the decade

he was struggling to hit the

heights of chart success.

Helms had struck gold with his first release on the Decca la-"Fraulein". The Lawton Williams-penned song had been inspired by a German-American girl he had worked with at a Houston radio station and had been rejected by most of the acts in Nashville before Helms cut it. Although slow to take off, it eventually topped the country charts - remaining on them for an extraordinary 52 weeks - and

reaching the Top Forty. Helms followed it shortly afterwards with the slick ballad "My Special Angel". A country No 1 for four weeks, it too climbed the US pop charts, reaching the Top Ten, and even became a minor hit in Britain. He later named his youngest daugh-

crossed over to the pop listings.

ter Angel in tribute to the record. By now heavily in demand, Helms became a regular guest on American television, appearing on both American Band-

Bobby Helms

stand and The Ed Sullivan Show. At the end of 1957 he had another smash on his hands with Joe Beale and Jim Boothe's "Jimgle Bell Rock". A response to J.S. Pierpoint's festive standard. it has become a mainstay of Christmas playlists and sold over a million copies within the first five years of its release. Even today is it heard regularly on the soundtrack of Christmas films and television programmes.

Helms kick-started 1958 with

another Top Ten hit "Just a Little Lonesome", and then made his movie début alongside Darren McGavin and Warren Stevens in a now-forgotten drama. The Case Against Brooklyn. A song from the film. "Jacque-line", on which he was hacked hy the Anita Kerr Singers, gave him another hil and also appeared in the charts in Britain. His "Schoolboy Crush" from the same period was covered by Cliff Richard to become the flip-side of his déhut single "Move It". From that point on, however, Helms's luck began to change as numbers like New River Train" (1959) and "Lonely River Rhine" (1960) fared less well and he parted company with Decca.



As with so many country acts, Bohby Helms had started performing whilst still a youngster. Billed as "Bouncing" Bobby Helms, he and his guitarist hrother Freddie had proved a popular act on the Monroe County Jamboree before moving on to the Hayloft Frolic Show out of Bloomington, Indiana. It was whilst there that he was encouraged to head to Nashville. an audition tape which was to have landed him a spot on Ernest Tubb's Midnight Jamboree being passed by Tubh to Paul Cohen of Decca, who signed him to the label.

The exact reason for Heims's failure to remain at the tor, especially after such an auspidous start, are difficult to pinpelnt. but he never regained the topularity he had enjoyed during those four blazing years. He continued to record sporadically, scoring a clutch of mitor hits including "He Thought He'd Die Laughing and "So Long" (1969) for Lttle Darlin' Records before making his final chart appearance in 1970 with "Mary Gos Round" on the Certon label

Based in Indiana, he tourel both in the US and across Enrope and was by now sporting a distinctive and necessary patch over his right eye. A 1983 alhum, Pop-4-Billy, on MCA did very little and he remained until his death a figure remembered solely for brief past glories; glories which have now been collected together by Bear Family Records and issued as a fine two-CD set.

Paul Wade

Robert Lee Helms, singer: bort Bloomington, Indiana 15 Augus 1933; twice married (three sons three daughters); died Mar tinsville, Indiana 19 June 1997

Births. Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

MORRIS / PILKINGTON: To Jessic and Edward, a beautiful, much-loved baby boy, Felir Baron Pilkington, born on Monday to June, 8lb t3oz.

Amouncements for Gazette BIRTBS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS | Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversuries, In Memoriami should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements must or number to submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a day-time telephone number.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Princess Bayal, President, Rading for the Disabled Association, amends a stow to celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the Wikton Group, Wilton, Wiltahire; and attends the Moody Midsummer Meet, Southaupton, Hampahire, Princess Margares, President, the Englash Fulk Dance and Song Society, attends a pury to knume the surjety's new Haddissant Dance publication for Schools at Cedi Sharp House. London NWI. The Dake of Goucester, Trustee, the British Museum, accompanied by The Dackness of Goucester attends of Goucester of the British Museum, at the museum, London WCI. The Dackness, at the museum, London WCI. The Dackness of Goucester opens the Girls Public David Museum, at the museum, London WCI. The Dackness of Goucester opens the Girls Public David Change of Goucester opens the Girls Public David All England Lawo Tennos and Croquet Cub, attends the Wimblecton Changtonships, London SW19, and as Patron and puest of honour, attends the Radia Crattre, London WI.

Changring of the Guanrd ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard
The Household Carolin Mounted Region
mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Gar
Lines E. Commun. South Guards mounted

Marriages

Mr S. A. F. Barry and Miss K. A-M. Rieppel

The marriage took place on Tuesday 24 June at Chelsea Register Office between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Barry, of Kintbury, Berk-shire and Katharina. daughter of Mr and Mrs Dieter Rieppel, of Munich,

Birthdays Mr Claudio Abbado, conductor, 64; Sir Campbell Adamson, former an, Abbey National plc, 75; Sir Alan Bailey, former Permanent Secretary, Department of Transport, 66; Professor Kenneth Barker, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, De Montfort University, 63; Mr Leslie Carpenter, former chairman, Reed International, 70; Mr Georgie Fame, singer and songwriter, 54; Dr Alexan-der Fenton, Director, European Ethnological Research Centre, Edinburgh, 68; Mr William Hamilton, former MP, 80; Rear-Admiral Sir David Haslam, hydrographer, 74; Professor Ruth Kempson, linguist, 53; Mr Syd Lawrence, bandleader, 73; Mr Robett Maclennan MP, 61; Sir Peter Miles, former Keeper of the Privy Purse, 73: Miss Fleanor Parker, actress, 75; Professor Sir Alan Peacock, economist, 75; Mr Peter Pike MP, 60; Mr Nicholas Polunin, environmentalist, 88; Lord Rawlinson of Ewell QC. former Attorney-General, 78; Professor Maurice Wilkes, computer scientist, 84; Mr

Winnick MP. 64. Anniversaries

Births: George Morland, painter, 1763; William Thomson, first Baron Kelvin, physicist and inventor, 1824; da Fielding, "Designing and Making

Colin Wilson, author, 66; Mr David

Pearl Sydenstricker Buck, novelist, 1892; Willy Messerschmitt, aircraft designer, 1898; Peter Lorre (Laszlo Locwenstein), actor, 1904; Laurie Lee, poet and author, 1914. Deaths: Julian the Apostate, Roman Emperor, died of wounds 363; Sir Richard Fanshawe, diplomat, trans-lator and poet, 1666: The Rev Gilbert White, naturalist and cieric, 1793; Joseph-Michel Montgolfier, bal-loonist, 1810; Samuel Crompton, spinning mule invenior. 1827; Clande-Joseph Rouget de Lisle, writer, and composer of the "Mar-seillaise", 1836; Ford Madox Ford, novelist and poet, 1939; Reinhold Moritzovich Gliere, composer, 1956; Sir Charles Clore, financier, 1979; George Horace Gallup, poll organ-iser, 1984. On this day: Christ's Hospital (the Bluecoat Schoot) was granted its charter, 1553; the Curn Laws were repealed, 1846; the Cawn-pore Massacre took place, 1857; the Order of Merit was instituted by King Edward VII, 1902; the new Victoria and Albert Museum was opened, 1909; the United Nations Charter was signed by 50 nations, in San Fran-cisco, 1945; the first London production of the musical show Grease was presented, 1973. Today is the Feast Day of St Antbelmus, bishop. St John of the Goths, St Maxenting St Pelagius of Cordova, Saints Salvius or Sauve and Superius and St Vigilius of Trent.

Lectures National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Baptists (iv): Caravaggio, Salome Receives the Head of Saint John the Baptist", tpm. Tate Gallery: Ben Whitworth, "Myth, Ritual and Religion in 20th-century British Art", 1pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Aman-

Studio Ceramics, 1947 onwards", British Museum: Dian Flore, "10,000

Years of Rock Art in Patagonia 1.15pm. National Portrait Gallery: Graham Cottenden, "Giving Shape to Beautv". 1.10pm.

King's College London, London WC: Professor Frank Coffield, "Can the UK Become a Learning So-

Receptions High Commissioner for Cameroon Mr Samuel Libock Mbei, High Commissioner for the Republic of Cameroon, and Mrs Libock, were the hosts at a reception held yesterday al the Hyatt Carltoo Hotel, London W1, to celebrate Camerooo's Na-tional Day. Sir James Weatherall Vice-Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Sec-relary-Geogral of the Commonwealth, and Mr R.S. Gorham, First Assistant Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, were among the guests.

Dinners

Defence and Security Forum Lady Olga Maitland, President, Defence and Security Forum, presided at a dinner held yesterday evening at the Carlton Club, St James's, London SW1. Lord Mayhew of Twysden was the guest speaker. Mr Don May, Chairman, also spoke.

HMS Victory

Col Ahmed Yousef Al Mulla, Commander of the Knwait Navy, was the guest of honour at a dinner held yesterday evening on board HMS lietory. Portsmouth. Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, was the host.

No substitution of verdict after guilty plea LAW REPORT

Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Waller, Mr Justice Tucker and Mr Justice Bennen)

The Cnurt of Appeal had no power to substitute a verdict of guilty to another offence when allowing an appeal against conviction of an offence to which the defendant had pleaded

The Court of Appeal allowed the appellant's appeal against conviction of two counts of obtaining property by deception contrary to section 15(1) of the Theft Act 1968, and quashed the convictions.

The appellant had pleaded guilty in April 1994 to the offences, both of which involved the obtaining of cheques. He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. Following the de-cision of the House of Lords in R v Preddy (1996) 2 Cr App R 524 he applied for an extension of time in which to apply for leave to appeal against his

It was held in R v Preddy that. where a payment induced by deception was made by cheque, the chose in action represented by the cheque never helonged to the drawer, but came into existence belonging to the payee. There could, therefore, he no question of the payee's 26 June 1997

served.

longing to another" within the term of imprisonment he had meaning of section 15(1) and thus of having committed the An extension of time was granted by the deputy Registrar of Criminal Appeals, and leave

Sarah Munro (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant; Geoffrey Mercer (CPS) for the Crown.

to appeal was granted by the

Lord Justice Waller said that the single judge had clearly granted leave to appeal on the expectation that the Court of Appeal would have the power to substitute convictions for some other offence under section 3 of the Criminal Appeal

The appellant had, on any view, been guilty of serious dishonesty. There would have heen no answer to an application at the trial to amend the indictment to allege two counts of procuring a valuable security by deception contrary to section 20(2) of the Theft Act 1968. The appellant would then have pleaded guilty to those offences. Accordingly, it could scarcely he said that any seri-

having ohtained "property be- the appellant in serving the

It was submitted however that, unattractive as ft might seem in the light of the appellant's admitted dishonesty, on the wording of section 3 of the 1968 Act the Court of Appeal had no power lo substitute where the appellant had pleaded guilty. Subsection (2) expressly provided that the court might, instead of allowing or dismissing the appeal, substitute "for the verdict found by the jury a verdict of guilty of the

The Crown submitted that it would be most unfortunale and indeed anomalous if the power to substitute did not extend to appeals against conviction on a guilty plea. The powers of the Court of Appeal, however, flowed only from statute, and if the words of the section were clear, however anomalous, there was no room for construing them in any other way. The words of section 3 which provided the Court of Appeal with the power to suhstitute expressly contemplated a verdict from a jury.

other offence".

Prior to the Criminal Appeal ous injustice had been done to Act 1995, which had substitut-

ed section 2(1) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 with the shorter and simpler provision providing for the court to allow an appeal "if they think that the conviction is unsafe", in most cases following a guilty plea to an offence unknown to law where the appellant was clearguilty of some offence, the Court of Appeal had simply applied the proviso then contained in section 2(1).

That was amply demonstrated by the decisions cited in R v Graham (1997) 1 Cr App R 302. That decision had also made clear that where as a matter of law the particulars of offence specified in an indictment could not, even if established. support a conviction for the offence charged, a conviction of such an offence must be

considered unsafe. It followed that, time having been extended and leave to appeal having been granted, the appeal must be allowed. Until there was an amendment to the law, applications for an extension of time and applications for leave to appeal where there had been a plea of guilty, unless leave was refused, should be considered by the full court so that the Court of Appeal's powers to see that justice was

done were not hampered. Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

لمكذا من ألاصل

In the long run, health means responsibility

rank Dohson, Secretary of State for Health, is an admirer of Napples of Nappl Napoleon. In quieter moments he will regale you with the line-up at Marengo and tactics at Austerlitz. Like Bonaparte, Mr Dobson faces a tough winter campaign when - it is widely predicted - waiting lists will grow rather than fall, patients will he refused admission to cash-strapped hospitals and the health unions will hecome restive. If the doctors were to perform heart surgery on the health secretary they would find stamped on that lough muscle the same word that tormented his predecessors back to

Ancurin Bevan - money.
Predictably, then. Mr Dobson's speech yesterday to the NHS Confederation was greeted as if it were a promissory note - in this case promising to try not to pay for the public's expectations of health care raised by Lahour's election commitments. A mention of amalgamating health authorities and closing hospitals in his speech was taken to signal his desperate search for savings while the proposal to create "Health Action Zones" was read as a hid to get other people to do the Government's dirty work of cutting and crimping the NHS. Meanwhile, in another neck of the woods, much significance was attached to references to "hypothecation" by Patricia Hewitt who, though a fresher MP, is well plugged into Blairite policy wonk

a health tax or some other device for dedicating a flow of funds into "saving the service". There are, it's undeniable, hig holes in NHS finances, in the short run. They were graphically described by, among others, the Institute of Fiscal Studies before the election and have receded since. Too many health trusts ended the last financial year carrying forward deficits for there not to be anguished cries in the win-ter months. But health politics are a perennial round of knife-edging and wound- hinding. Besides, there are substantive questions facing the NHS which do not have much to do with the aggregate budget - such as the excess in the system of a particular kind of hospital hed. The growth of day surgery and changes in treatment regimes fostered by the doctors themselves have reduced demand for "acule" heds, but not uniformly across the country. Frank Dobson could soon face the perplexing task of justifying keeping heds going in London (where patient demand has been rising, whatever the health planners intended) while closing them down elsewhere.

Any health secretary in a government which thinks itself worth at least two terms in office would be dereliet in his duty if he did not, even at this early stage, start thinking hard about the medium to long run. And that, though his critics may have missed it, is just



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what Frank Dobson started to do yesterday. Health Action Zones could turn out to be ineffectual talking shops where, not for the first time, the medics dominate and other interests get pushed to the margins. But they could become a means by which a health revolution is accomplished. That is hig talk, but the new government's emerging health thinking does appear amhitious. Since its inception the National Health Service has of course been nothing of the kind. It has been the national disease and accident service. Health - what we all need if we are to

pital wards - was relegated to local authorities and marginalised doctors. When, not long after Margaret Thatcher came to power, Sir Douglas Black reported that public health was adversely affected by life chances, he was stating the obvious. But the obvious consequences for "national health" were ignored. Now Tessa Jowell has dusted off the work and if the Department of Health - by all accounts not yet the most coordinated of Whitehall departments - can pull its arms and legs together there is at least the prospect of renewed attention to the simple stay out of doctors' surgeries and hos- truth that people by and large make

their own health, within the economic or garden sense, Weight Watchers writ and social circumstances in which they find themselves. Being healthy is, for most of us, a life choice. Health Action Zones could be much

more than vehicles to give him cover for closing down unwanted acute beds. They could, for example, start thinking about public health and what it takes to improve it. Yesterday we reported on the front page extrapola-tions of recent trends in the incidence of cancer. They made for a scary headline. Even if we re-weigh the figures for demography (old people have to die of something, so proportionately more old people must mean proportionately more cancer death), cancer cases will grow. But a trend is not a fate. The incidence of cancer reflects, in part, life-style choices: to smoke, to lie in the noonday sun, to eat unhealthy foods. Those choices are ours. However successful Frank Dobson might or might not be in wresting funds from the Treasury, whatever progress is made in gene therapy, however fine the screening nets for hreast or howel cancer, it will still be down to us to raise or lower the risk of certain cancers by our own actions. By "health maintenance organisation" the Americans mean a plan guaranteeing access to care by dint of having paid a subscription cum insurance premium. What if Frank Dobson's zones became health maintenance organisations in the common

large, community mechanisms to foster healthy behaviour? Only if people start to "own" their health rather than contracting it out to the NHS will those cancer trends not be realised. There is another benefit, admittedly not one that is going to bail Frank Dobson out in the short run. It is money. The more public health we enjoy - health as a personal, family and community responsibility—the less need there will he for the NHS to be continually racked by crisis.

A world turned inside out

Diviously the misdemeanours of inmates of Her Majesty's jails are no laughing matter, and we would not want even to hint at encouraging more of the wickedness detailed in our exclusive report today of prison disruption recorded this year. But it is hard to avoid a little wry grin at some of these events. Snowball fights? Women who protest because they're excluded from the Miss Holloway competition and Easter Bonnet parade? Perhaps it is inevitable that closed worlds such as prisons will always have a certain surreality in their lives. Or are they just a reflection of the madness outside?

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

British snub to new regime in Hong Kong

Sir. At this eleventh hour, is it out of the question that British ministers attending the the Hong Kong hand-over ceremonies on 30 June could reconsider their decision immediately thereafter to leave the territory, absenting themselves from the immediate consequential formalities, in contra-distinction to the attitude to he adopted by the great majority of other visiting heads of government, including several Commonwealth ones?

The Government's argument.

for justifying such a negative, emharrassing course of action is that the provisional Legislative Council is an illegal onc, because it allegedly breaks an agreement that a "through train" body would continue in office until 1999. Yet Peking long ago made it ahundantly clear that Chris Patten's so-called reforms, without their prior consent, nullified the "through train"

concept.
There has been much criticism in the media that the new chief executive has been imposed on Hong Kong by Peking. In fact he was elected, with a substantial majority, over two other candidates, by a representative group of Hong Kong citizens. This, if not an example of Western-style democracy, is wholly in contrast with the way that all previous governors, including Chris Patten, have been chosen by the imperial power without any consultation at all with the people of Hong Kong.

Another original

As for the new "draconian" laws that the new Legco are 10 reinstate on I July, these contain only provisions in accord with those the British maintained up to Mr Patien's arrival on the scene, as essential to ensure good order and the rule of law, during the last

Sir FREDERIC BENNETT Aberangell, Gwynedd

Sir. There has been so much political and journalistic misrepresentation about the transfer of sovereignty over Hong Kong that il was heartening to read Neville Maxwell's letter (13 June). He correctly refers to "the treatyhreaking withdrawal of British co-operation 10 achieve a smooth

transition".
This expected co-operation was embodied in the so-called "through train" agreement under the Joint Declaration of 1984 which provided that memhers of the last Legislative Council under the British administration would serve as members of the first Legeo of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

This commitment was made entirely clear in the then Foreign Secretary's speech of 25 October 1984 about the draft agreement. Sir Geoffrey Howe stated: "It constitutes a formal international agreement, legally hinding in all its parts. This is the highest level of cummitment that can he given by one sovereign state to another." (Hansard Vol: 65 Col:

Chris Patten, having heen appointed Governor of Hong Kong in 1992, reacted arrogantly and ignorantly and, contrary to the Joint Declaration, proceeded to introduce so-called democratic changes to the existing Legco. As the "through train" arrangement had been abrogated by the UK



improvement in the ratio. In each

year (bar one) the nation's energy

efficiency increased. But in each one of the first three years of this

depressingly awful feat of actually

worsening our energy ratio. Last

consumption went up faster than our GDP. Not, I would submit, a

reason to be very cheerful. Or

even particularly holier-than-

Sir. Amidst his frustration at the

desperate delay tactics of the Clinton administration, Tony Blai

might want to reflect on why the

decade, we managed the

year, again, our energy

ANDREW WARREN

Conservation of Energy

Association for the

ondon N1

government, the government of the People's Republic of China responded by making their own changes and introduced a Provisional Legeo to operate hefore the transfer and for a year thereafter, whereupon the Provisional Legeo will be dishanded and the first Legeo of the HKSAR will be elected no later than 1 July 1998.

I am profoundly concerned ahout the previous government's perfidious conduct, which the Foreign Office has gonc along with and which the present government appears to endorse, as I was one of the three founder members of the GB-China Parliamentary Group in the House of Commons in 1968 and served in it as chairman or

secretary in the 29 years since. Chris Patten, while an MP. was never a member of the group. Events might have been different had he bothered to join - and learnt something about China. ANDREW FAULDS Stratford-upon-Avon,

Sir: Christine Loh's article (17 June) refers to British imperialism of one hundred years ago and the Chinese "loss of face", a sense of shame which will be cleansed by the return of Hong Kong. She hopes for apology and reconciliation. By all means let us make a

formal apology to China for the seizure of Hong Kong and for the imperialism of one hundred years ago. Will China then remove its troops from Tibet and apologise for its disgraceful treatment of that very special nation and culture?

DAVID ROBINSON Curbridge, Oxfordshire

Not as green as we seem

Sir: The UK has been able to adopt a distinctly "holier than thou" attitude during this week's Earth Summit negotiations on climate change. We are after all one of the few OECD countries currently producing lower emissions of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, than we were in 1990 - thus fulfiling our commitments at the original Earth Summit in Rio in 1992.

Before becoming too selfcongratulatory, we should reflect on how we have achieved this feat. It has been primarily achieved by switching the sources of our electricity, out of carbon-intensive coal and into more nuclear and eas-fired production. It is not a trick we can repeat again, when seeking the promised deeper cuts

It has long been acknowledged that the simplest and most publicly acceptable means of delivering such reductions is, as the Prime Minister stressed in his statement in the Commons, to improve our energy efficiency. Which is something we have singularly failed to do during this decade. The accepted way of measuring a nation's energy efficiency is to divide the gross national product by the amount of fuel consumed each year. This gives you your energy ratio.

During the period from 1945 to

1989 the UK measured a steady 1

climate negotiations have become so vulnerable to disruption ("Blair gets serious on climate summit". 24 June). One of the main reasons is that none of the world leaders is prepared to speak the truth by its real name - fossil fuels. Science tells us we destroy our climate if we hurn oil, coal and gas

By refusing to discuss the implications of climate protection on fossil fuel consumption, politicians leave themselves vulnerable to a dirty tricks campaign orchestrated by the very sector who sit at the heart of the problem - the oil and coal lobby. It is this lobby which has taken out full-page adverts in the US press and effectively blocked a more progressive position by Mr Clinton. Mr Blair's international green

leadership is fragile if he permits massive expansion of the fossil fuel supply in the Atlantic. If he stops the Wild West hrawl for new fossil fuel reserves at the Atlantic frontier he would be able to demonstrate to the US that industrial development does not have to be eternally linked to the expansion of the supply of cheap

Even country

folk oppose hunt

Sir: As a native of rural, hunting

Pembrokeshire, I must end the

are vigorously and vociferously

opposed by the remainder of us.

Anyone who genuinely wishes to

know the sympathies of country people need only refer to the opinion

polls, which all clearly indicate that

there is a strong and-hunt majority in

The hunting lobby has failed to

grasp that the contest is over - the

Bill is not that it re-examines either

the moralities or practicalities of

will create the legislative

Port Lion, Pembrokeshire

Heroic image

Sir: G R Green (Letters, 24 June)

suggests a statue of Lawrence of

Arabia in Arab dress astride a camel. A splendid marble effigy, by Eric

Kennington, of Lawrence in full Arab dress exists, and may be seen

Martin's-on-the-Walls in Wareham

Dorset. And although not mounted

on a carnel, his head is resting on a

carved camel saddle. For those not

facsimile of the effigy will be found

in the National Portrait Gallery.

able to get to Dorset, a plaster

Canon PETER HARDMAN

Team Rector of Wareham

Wareham, Dorset

in the little Saxon Church of St

mechanisms to do so.

STEPHEN CODD

banning hunting, but rather that it

argument already won. The real significance of Michael Foster's

rurai as well as in urban areas.

myth that the majority of country

folk understand and support fox-hunting (letter, 21 June). Only a small minority participate, and they

MATTHEW SPENCER Climate Campaigner Greenpeace UK London NI

Sir. The Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, is betraying current and future generations of people in low-lying countries and people all over the planet who are at risk of the impact of climate change brought

on by global warming. In threatening to withdraw from the Framework Convention on Climate Change, and arguing that Australia is a special case because it is a big coal producer, Mr Howard is showing not only a lack of compassion but also a lack

of intelligence. In Australia, tourism is now an even greater earner of foreign income than coal. John Howard needs to bow to the inevitable and make the decisions required to secure the future for the planet and its people.
NIKI KORTVELYESSY

European Federation of Green **Parties**

VERONICA VANN The Greens (Western Australia) London NW5

per cent per annum overall Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail. letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

CSA told me to give up work

Sir: Polly Toynbee's conclusion that the Child Support Agency does little to help single mothers (article, 23 June) will come as no surprise to single mothers who have tried to use the system.

I have been told that the CSA cannot make my children's father contribute to my greatest expense, child-care costs, on the grounds that these cosis are only incurred because I choose to work. When I asked what the alternative is, if I cannot afford the fees on my own, the CSA's helpline told me that I could always give up work and claim benefit

I thought the CSA was established to get single mothers off benefit and back to work, not the other way round. SUE HEADS Leamington Spa, Warwickshire

Travel on the Japanese tube

Sir: Being a compatriot, I read with sympathy about the plight of Mrs Kumiko Tsuchida, the hapless Japanese teacher who inadvertently got to Torquay instead of Turkey ("Turkey trot", 21 June). But I have a different explanation of the generally maddening behaviour shown by tourists of every nationality in stations, namely, the crowdgenerating nature of the London Underground itself.

As a passenger who is constantly dismayed by the tube's delays, station closures and high fares, may I make an entirely new suggestion for its improvement: why not leave the running of the network to Japanese subcontractors? Despite our propensity for appearing inscrutable, we manage this sort of thing rather better (witness the

underground system in Tokyo). So, under a Japanese management, you could kill three birds with one stone: you'd have a cleaner, more efficient tube and eventually less polluted air as people stop using their cars and you would also be able to hundle off the tourists, Japanese or not. more quickly to their destinations", wherever they are. TAKEFUMI ENOMOTO ondon WCI

Millennium Tent

Sir: Nobody seems to have pointed out that unlike St Paul's or the Dome of Discovery, the proposed Greenwich erection is not a dome at all in the structural sense of the word. It is in fact a tent-like arrangement of light-weight supports suspended from masts and covered in plastic sheet to simulate the appearance of a dome. There is a symbolic significance there that I can't quite put my finger on. LOUIS HELLMAN

Smelly cod

London W3

Sir: In the West Country the expression "toe rag" is used for dried salt cod, once an item of diet m common use. It got this name because soaking dried salt cod before cooking produces the most appalling smell reminiscent of

really smelly feet.
Nothing to do with tow at all, and far more appropriate to describe an object of dislike or scorn. R G F STANES Honiton, Devon

It's a money on soft

Labour is committed to not raising income tax. But the way the benefit system operates, the poor continue to be hit by hidden 'taxes' which are a disincentive to work. Paul Vallely and Conal Walsh explore the poverty trap

oe for you, 19 for me, sang George Harritles was a time for protest songs, and the Beatles were indignant that Conservative and Labour prime ministers alike thought it a good idea to levy a top income tax rate of 95 per cent. Such days may be gooe for the super-rich but they are still very much with us for the poor. They form an intrinsic part of the structures that keep the poor in their place. Yesterday's Downing Street breakfast seminar for top busi-

ness leaders is the first in a oumber of New Labour moves to address those structures. Bringing in the private sector is but one avenue. Future mitiatives will look at voluntarysector work, full-time study, and jobs with an environment task force. A scheme to bring more single mothers back into the employment fold bas already been hinted at. Representatives of the unemployed were yesterday under-whelmed by the plans.

More than one approach will be needed. There is not one poverty trap but many. There are large oumbers of poor people who are, in effect, taxed at a much higher rate than anything even George Harrison paid in the Sixties.

Take an average couple wbo are both unemployed, living in an average council bouse with average council tax. They would get each week:

Income support - £77.15, extra for two children - £33.80; Family premium benefit -

Housing benefit - £33.22; Council tax beoefit - £6.80. Their total weekly income is therefore £161.77.

Sbould ooe of them land a iob that paid £180 a week they would lose 97p for every £1 they under an economic orthodoxy which proclaimed that a 50 per cent top rate of income tax was too much of a disincentive for the better off. The rich, it seems, oeed carrots as incentives, where the poor require sticks.) Only if this average couple carned more than £220

a week would the family settle down to a normal tax and National Insurance rate of about 35 per cent.

Rescuing the poor from such traps is the task Tony Blair bas set the head of Barclays Bank. Martin Taylor, who is due to deliver a review of the tax and benefits system by the end of the year. It is part of the brief for the long-term reform of welfare being conducted by the social security minister, Frank Field. And it bas implications for the strategy to be adopted by Gordon Brown in the Budget next week in determining how to reform the windfall tax to get young unemployed off welfare and into work.

The nation's think-tanks bave come up with a number of proposals. Taxes on the lowpaid should be cut, according to Patricia Morgan of the right-wing Institute for Economic Affairs. "The tax rate cuts in at a very low level today," she says.
"People who receive benefits shouldn't be taxed." On the left the Institute for

Public Policy Research would like to see beoefits phased out more gradually - "perhaps so that you never lose more than for every extra £1 you earn," says its director, Gerry Holtham. Another solution would be to address the problem that with some benefits you start to lose as soon as you earn anything - so if you're oo bousing benefit, for every extra £1 you earn you lose 60p, but if you're oo bousing mortgage relief, you lose the lot as soon

as you earn a penny.

An eod to means testing is wbat Sally Witcher of the Child Poverty Actioo Group would like to see. "It's counter-intuitive," she says. "Most people assume that it's sensible to target benefits on those who are poorest, to avoid waste. But means-tested benefits are far more expensive to administer. which the poor find it almost impossible to leap." She wants to see flat-rate benefits paid to the unemployed.

Others are more radical. Holtham floats the possibility of a oegative income tax. There would be a certain income at which you pay no tax;

Find out

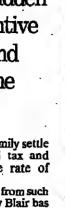
goes on

in between the

Full unedited coverage of

both Houses in session and incisive

what





The Low-Pay Trap Tom and Sharon Rogers, both 25, are a married couple with a young child who rent a flat from a private landlord in Essex for £58 a week. Tom works as a security guard, earning £190 a week. It's not much to bring a young family up on, and Tom would like to do overtime. But if he adds more than £10 to his paypacket, be begins to lose the Housing Beoefit and Family Credit be gets as a low-earner. If he earns £200 a week or more, benefits are withdrawn at a rate of 123 per cent, which means that the family is actually losing 23p for every extra pound earned. He must stick at £190, unless be can leap to £220 in one go.

More, Mr Beadle Brown

above it you do, and below it more acute version of the same you get a single beoefit pay-ment." The notion finds support on the right: William Hague's campaign maoager Alan Duncan and a colleague, Dominic Hobsoo, have also suggested that benefits should be replaced by a simple Tax Credit, administered by the Inland Revenue. But what do those who are

mired in poverty think of all this? Not a lot. "What we really need is a minimu m wage," Tom Rogers says "A job with a minimum wage and less tax on the low paid would be an inceotive to get off the 'broo [the dole]," says Brian Lennox, who is caught in the part-time poverty trap. Professor Peter Townseod bas said that equipping the poor for the workplace is meaningless unless Labour is prepared to commit itself to -sector fostering oew industries. But would that really belp

Brian and Wilma Lennox? Their trap is that she has been forced to give up a full-time job because they lost too many benefits if she worked anything more than part time. Janet and Richard Pier are caught in a

sound bites.

Get the complete picture

political programming

catcb-22. "I had a job cleaning at Newbam bospital," says Janet. "But the money was up and down; some weeks it was £100 and I could manage, but other weeks it was as low as £38 and I couldn't. There's a big difference. It affects the basics, like bow much food you can buy. I realised I would be better off on benefit."

be problem for Janet was the unpredictability of ber income. It is one of a oumber of factors that Gerry Holtham says must be addressed. "It is such a rigmarole to get oo to benefit that people woo't come off it for a few weeks to do a casual iob, because it takes so long to get back on," be says.

The Institute for Public

experimental special enterprise zones set up, in which the unemployed could keep their benefits for a period of five years so long as they paid tax on wbatever extra earnings they acquired. This, Holtbam argues, would legitimise a lot of argues, would legitimise a lot of black ecooomy activity and be less expensive than paying the unemployed for doing nothing. The response of the poor is mixed. "I would go for that," says Janet, "if I could earn a bit

without losing benefit. I would get something in a shop or a factory, cleaning or whatever." But Brian Lennox is uncoovinced. "If you got your full benefits and could earn on top of that, that would be OK, but you shouldn't be taxed even at the normal rates. We'd be better off just oot declaring money earned on the side. To keep 65p out of £1 isn't much." be adds, apparently uncon-

cerned by the fact that that is

about what most of us keep, after income tax and National

Insurance are deducted.

Revelations like that go to the beart of the problem, so far as right-wing thinkers are concerned. For Brian assumes he should have the right to choose to remain unemployed. "It depends on what is your model of buman nature," says David Green of the Institute of Economic Affairs. "Are people motivated by economic incen-tives - that they will do whatever gives them the best deal? Or are they moral agents - do they believe that it is hon-ourable and decent to work? His thinking is that if you rest your arguments on economic

self-interest you're in a pretty weak position when it comes to getting people out of the unemployment poverty trap. The problem cannot be solved so ong as it remains couched only in terms of economic incenr it is an issue of reciprocal responsibility: the community takes upon itself the responsibility of providing a safety net; in return the individual has the responsibility to work. And the community must set up the mechanisms to rekindle in the poor the qualities of foresight, every, discipline and the ability to sacrifice now for the future,

which poverty saps.
Such New Paternalism is already in practice in US states like Wisconsin, where numbers on the dole bave decreased

against national trends. who refused to enter his scheme would have their benefits cut by 40 per cent. Masden Pirie, the president of the right-wing Adam Smith Institute, is convinced that Labour will introduce something similar across the board. "After six months out of work

theo the choice of doing

nothing will disappear. The prospect of cutting grass in summer and collecting leaves m autumn does not impress
Brian Lennox. "I get enough
money off the "broo; wby
should I get a job," be asks.
failing at first to take on board
that the New Paternals Wash force him to work. Janet Pier is oo more enthusiastic, but is resigned to the prospect. "I don't like living off benefit," she says. "I wouldn't mind sweeping up leaves if they offered me £20 to £30 a week more. If they

money as I get now I wouldn't be happy; but I suppose I'd do it - though I'd rather go back to college and learn maths. It's a question of character." says David Greeo. "If not working is baving a bad effect on

vour moral character then it's a morally defensible view for society to insist that you must work if you want the mooey. The rights-based system of welfare we've had since 1948 worked well enough in the early years. People had been brought up with the attitude that to work was moral. But by the

wanted me to do it for the same Sixties people bad become money as I get now I wouldn't socialised by the beoefits system. They have a different cultural and moral attitude.

"Some people would do compulsory work," says Brian Lennox, after thinking for a moment. "But many would just turn to robbing and mugging. The crime rate would go right up. You might even have a riot on your bands. People woo't take it lying down." It's a question of character to Brian, too. And the gap between his worldview and David Green's is a measure of the scale of the

The Unemployed Trap

Richard Piet, 43, and his 41-year-old wife Janet are both unemployed. As well as getting their rent and council tax paid, they get a total of £86 a week income support: a £77 married couple's personal allowance, and a £9 disability benefit for Richard. He's got a bad back and can't work on anything that isn't sedentary. Janet has been out of work for four years. Before then sbe always worked - first in a clothing factory, and then as a cleaner at Newham Geoeral Hospital. Because of the low pay and irregular bours at the hospital, she wasn't making any more mooey

The Part-Time

Brian Lennox has

been unemployed on the Easterbouse estate in Glasgow for more years than he is prepared to admit. His wife, Wilma. works part-time as a cleaner in a school. doing 14 or 15 hours a week, for £55-£57. She used to work longer hours, which qualified her for Family Credit, giving her a total weekly income of £96. But when she works less than 16 bours Brian qualifies for Income Support and their total income is £144.



Gordoo Brown yesterday revealed that young people

She gets £48 a week you'll bave to take a job either in the private sector or in some less.

It's good to be living in a Hogg-free zone

To the past week or so at least three public figures have been shown to be doing wrong with their pets and children

Jonathao Aitkeo was prepared to put his daughter on the witness stand to lie for him in court.

The Princess of Wales took her soo to see a film be was not old enough to see. The former US

ambassador to Britain confessed oo air that he bad lied about his dog's age. Now, you can see at a

glance that these three indiscretions do not all have the same grade of horror. Aitken's misuse of his daughter is pretty smelly. Diana's buying a ticket for ber son lo see a Cert 15 film is pretty mild. Raymood Seitz's revelation on Radio 4 that be had said his dog was 10 years old wheo he discovered that you couldn't bring 12-year-old dogs into Britain was so sensible that nobody paid any attention to it - indeed, Seitz's purpose was to show us bow stupid our quarantine regulations

are, and anyone listening to

Seitz's tale must have applauded him. What unites all these three misdeeds - one nasty, one barmless, one praiseworthy is that they are all against the law, and there was a time when the British would universally condemn anything done against the

law, no matter how sensible it was. In fact, the time when the British would support the law lasted till very recently. We all felt it was very

wroog (till very recently) that Spanish fishermen could come over here and take our fish quotas, but because it seemed to be EU law, we went along with it.

We all feel it is very wroog (I bope) that wheo people knock burglars on the head, the people are seot to jail and the burglars are set free. But if that's the law ...

We all feel it is very wrong when pregnant womeo who have failed to pay their TV liceoces are sent to prison. We all feel it is ludicrous that people who take the summer solstice seriously are

oot allowed to enter

Stoochenge.

Miles Kington

But it is the law. That is what we British say. Well, maybe things are

changing.
I wonder if a time may not be coming when we start to whisper to ourselves that the law may be an ass, and should be ignored.

I wooder if soon we will oot all be asking, out loud, the vital question: "What on earth happened to Douglas Hogg?

I am sorry. I don't know how that slipped out. This article was nothing to do

with Douglas Hogg, and I baven't thought of him for weeks and weeks. But obviously he was preying on my mind, and the questioo just bubbled up like dirty ashing up water.

What on earth happeoed to Douglas Hogg?"

There he was, about a year ago, Minister of BSE, the man who personified mad cow disease. John Major's choice to be our agricultural supremo. always on the TV and radio justifying his foolish decisions, universally bated by farmers and public alike, limping along like the last dow across the road at milking time, as familiar a foolish face as Jeffrey Archer or Edwina Currie, and then suddenly - bang! Gone!

Did he lose his seat at the general election? Did he even stand at the election?

I'll tell you the answer. Who cares?
So, back to the big
question, which is this: are the British beginning to lose

their respect for the law? There was a time when the British had so much respect for the law that you could be

penalised even when you weren't breaking it. For instance, I doo't think that Diana was actually breaking the law by taking her son to a film above his age, as this was only the

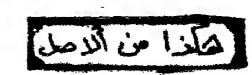
recommended age.
For instance, I don't think it is against the law to break the Highway Code, which only has a discretionary, not

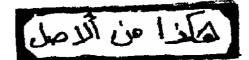
a mandatory, function. For instance, I don't think it is actually illegal to go out in the street and shout out loud; "Iso't it wonderful not having Douglas Hogg on our screens every night?

I'm sorry. It slipped out again. I don't know why I have to draw attention to the absence of Douglas Hogg.

when it is even nicer to have the absence of Michael Howard, a man so dislikeable that eveo Tory MPs found him the most unpleasant of all the

leadership candidates they were offered. I think I'll go and see my analyst about all this and come back refreshed





the commentators

Thirty years on,

of shocks that

it is with a series

It's a waste of money being hard on soft-drug users

had a letter recently from Hope Humphreys who is aghast at what has happened to her son. Most other parents listening to her story can imagine her sense of shock. How did her bright Manchester University student son fetch up in Strangeways prison with a two-and-a-half-year sentence? Police looking for someone else broke into his student house and found some cannabis and ecstasy. Ecstasy, amazingly, is a Class A drug with a recommended sentence of three to five years for possession with intent to supply. He was no more a "supplier" than the friend who bought costasy for Leah Betts-but like thousands of others, down he went.

The Low-Pay Irap

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A recent Home Office British Crime Survey found that nearly half of all young people use drugs at some time. This could have been any one of them. "Our son is mixing with murderers, heroin addicts, violent and vicious men". Hope Humphreys says. "He is frightened much of the time. He is treated as an evil drug dealer neither an addict nor a dealer.

Neither an addict nor a dealer.

what good will his time in prison have done anyone? It has turned his mother into a campaigner against our drug laws - not necessarily for legalisation, but for a saner policy. isation, but for a sancr policy. Plainly few British politi-

cians, except for one or two hravely unambitious mavericks, are likely to propose legalisation of soft drugs. In 1989 MORI found only 14 per cent of the public in favour of legalising the smoking of cannabis. By this year, that had risen to 21 per cent. So public opinion may be moving, but it remains firmly against it. It may be sensible, but for the time being it is a somewhat academic argument. After all, it need not take full legalisation to ensure that people like Hope Humphreys' son do not waste their time and our money doing two years in jail for what half the young people in the country do on a Saturday night with no serious ill-effect on society in general.

Today happens to be United Nations Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the UN has produced a vast report on the huge worldwide growth in the drugs trade and drug-related crime. It shows the relatively ineffective fight against it, with only some 10-15 per cent of heroin intercepted. It notes the general impression of "an impasse in the drug policy field". In just five years, 1988-1993, the US drug law enforcement hill rose from \$4.7bn to \$12.3bn, during which time the street price of heroin and cocaine dropped sharply, indicating an increasing supply - running faster and faster yet slipping backwards. The report also covers drug addiction treatments that work best, noting the decline in drug-related crime where there are good treatment and

methadone support programmes.

There is no doubt now that drug addiction fuels crime like a can of petrol oo the urban honfire. A Home Office report recently suggested that one in five thefts is caused by drug addicts, costing the victims some £864m in loss of property. A Department of Health study of 1,100 drug misusers found they had committed 70,000 crimes in the previous three months. (That is a horrifying 64 crimes each in just three months). Another Home Office report found that one fifth of those arrested for all crimes tested positive for heroin. Never mind the



Polly Toynbee

People are in jail for what half of Britain's youngsters do on a Saturday night with no serious ill-effects

> They pointed out that an offender might cost £36,000 to process through court and jail yet despite all that money, never get near a treatment programme to help prevent him reoffending. How much more effectively could money be

whole social fabric.

the crime figures.

Consider these depressing

facts, which show how much we

waste the money spent on drug-

related crime: two thirds of

public expenditure on drugs is spent on enforcing the law and

only one third on treatment and

prevention. Of the 94,000 drug

offenders caught by police, 90 per cent were for possession of

cannabis, the least socially dam-

aging drug. Some 4,200 heroin

offenders were caught - not

very many to give intensive treatment to. The Penal Affairs

Consortium produced a devas-

tating report this month oo the

criminal justice system's failure to deal effectively with drugs.

targeted on those who cause most harm? Once hard drug users enter the criminal justice system, there is a unique chance to change their lives and reduce their reoffending. Yet many get no treatment in prison. Downview, one of the few prisons with a good programme developed by the Rehabilitation for Addicted Prisoners Trust, shows that virtually all who go through their programme remained drugfree, proven by random drug-testing.

US research found that every dollar spent on drug treatment programmes saved \$7 in crime costs. What's more, crime reduction during the treatment itself, even if all the addicts had relapsed straight afterwards, paid for the cost of the programme. In Brighton a pilot scheme with drug workers stationed in courts and police stations to divert people away from prison and into treatment programmes found that curing one single heavy-using heroin addict saved in property stolen the combined cost of three workers on the scheme.

Courts have the power to use drug rehabilitation programmes, but very rarely do. In any case, most programmes are heavily over-subscribed, with 10 or more weeks waiting lists for people who cannot wait. Even detoxification centres for emergency short-term treatment

are turning away more people than they treat. So we waste money catching and processing thousands of harmless soft drug users, even locking up some, like Hope Humphreys' son. And at the same time we miss the chance to seize hold of serious addicts and treat them quickly in programmes that really do reduce the crimes they commit. It would not require a noisy headon confrontation with popular prejudice for Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to reorder priorities radically, save money from pointless activity and redirect it to the treatments inside and harm hard drugs do their users, they do outside prison that really work.



milieux of fashion, politics, entertainment, art, photography and business. and marvels eloquently about their go-getting qualities, their energy and style. But it is impossible to read it now without feeling a series of little shocks, as you find little connections between his confident social analysis and his behaviour, 30 years later.

Discussing polincians, he complains about the abysmal pay ("One of the tragedies of modern political life is that too many people do not contemplate entering the House of Commons because they know that it means such a savage salary cut and such a cruel invasion of their

privacy").

With an unerring nose for the ephemeral, Aitken nominates his meteors: in politics Leon Brittan and Anthony Blond (the latter became a publisher and a byword in loucheness), in entertainment Simon Dee, in husiness Jim Slater, in art Robert Fraser ... But what makes the eyes widen most is the way he suddenly abandons his list of Mary Quants and Barbara Hulanickis and Terence Conrans, and throws in a couple of chapters on sex. drugs, gambling and criminality.

yelping prurience, a professional fascination for the financial niceties of whoring, shooting up and "dropping a few grand at



Mary Quant: Sixties swinger



Young Aitken: hilarious have-your-cake-and-eat-it moralising

chemmy", topped and tailed by hilarious have-your-cakeand-eat-it moralising. In Chapter Four he reports on his interviews with 11 prostitutes ("Miss L Ash", "Miss Kane", "Madame Sade", "Miss Birchwood", you get the picture) and recites their areas of expertise, and charges, as if preparing a tariff in his head for use at a later date, before muttering, "Why anyone should get the slightest pleasure out of having pain inflicted on them is a mystery

Ah, sweet innocent Old Etonian. Sad to report, he finds nobody to "speak out for purity", with or without a trusty sword of thingy in his hand. The upper classes, he concludes, have "no morals at all". And I don't know about you lot but, Personally, I am rather tired of the vulgarity of the accepted excesses. This is no doubt the selfish view of one who, at the ripe age of 24, feels he is getting too old for the excitements of youth". Likewise he parades his familiarity with Aspinall's, the Mayfair gambling den, snootily assuring us that, "All ... the in-members know the parking drill at Aspinall's" tand singling out the 7th Earl of Lucan as "one of the cluh's most regular and colourful members") before tut-tutting

about "those who like wasting their lives... This high-mindedness does not stop him diving into the mid-Sixties drugs scene, with the same lively professional interest he showed when grilling the hrasses. Hearing that the junkies' favourite retreat is Boots the chemist in Piccadilly Circus, he goes there at midnight, cunningly disguised in jeans, diriy green roll-neck jumper and dark sunglasses. Familiarising himself with the ghastly native lingo, he learns to say, "Any chance of scoring, man?" and "Turn me on, man, I'm sick" to the shady low-lifes clustered around Eros. How gratifying it would have been to learn their

addressed by the clipped

Unimaginably, he also drops a tah of LSD and his responses are monitored by a doctor and written down. Unfortunately he has a horrible time and a new Aitken starts to appear. Fearing that he is going mad, he says, This drug needs police, the Home Office and a dictator to stamp it out,"
while calling out, "Where is my mother, the only symbol of sanity I know in this diseased world...

You can sort of see why



Lucan: 'in crowd' gambler

Mrs Thatcher was a little worried about his future. There is no mention in the book of Saudis, princes, middlemen or arms deals although Aitken's prescription that the Young People of Today should he conscripted into "a national service for peace" could be construed as an early interest in defence procurement. But his casual hragging about his contacts in the crime world ("I had maintained contact with some of the boys in my dormitory at the borstal"), and the two Oxford contemporaries who had already served criminal sentences, might have rung a few alarm bells. Most poignant, though, is when he writes about the atrophied amhitions of young Londooers like himself. "They are ambitious to be

somebody rather than do something" - to be

one connects the confident socialanalyses of the young meteor Aitken to his later behaviour john walsh recognised, rather than to have achieved. Well, if that an I share with you the latest joke to circle the World Wide Weh? It's

included him, he sure got his ambition, in spades.

about the time three law enforcement organisations the FBI, the CIA and the Los Angeles Police Department tries to convince President Clinton that each is the best at nicking criminals. The President decides to put them to the test by taking a rahhit, releasing it into the forest and ordering each organisation in turn to apprehend the little heast.

The CIA goes in first. They place animal informers at all points of the forest. They question plant life, rocks, stones and other material witnesses. After three months of intensive investigation. they conclude that the rabbit does not exist.

Next come the FBI, They don't muck about. After two weeks with no leads, they torch the forest, killing everything in it (including the rahbit). They don't apologise. The rabbit had it coming. Lastly it's the turn of the

LAPD. They go into the forest - and emerge after two hours, frogmarching a badly hashed-up bear, who is shouting, "OK, OK! I'm a rabbit! I'm a rabbit!"

uddenly everybody is apologising. Nike apologises to Islam for carrying a logo on its new hasketball shoes that looks like the Arabic word for "God". Princess Diana apologises for taking her children to a movie. Tony Blair apologises to Ireland for England's lack of response to the Irish famine 150 years ago. President Clinton apologises to all

black people for his predecessors' connivance in the slave trade, Soon Germany will say sorry for, you know, those misunderstandings earlier in the century, and the Royal Family will apologise for Elizabeth I's having allowed Sir Walter Raleigh to hring fags into the country. In the middle of this orgy

of self-ahasement is the Birse construction company, which has set an amazing precedent by saying sorry to its staff and customers for being so nasty to them in the early Nineties. "We had adopted a new culture which led to a more aggressive approach to all our relationships," writes the chairman in the current Birse News, before apologising for - well, actually, we're not given any details of what they did or how beastly it got. So now I'm desperately trying to find a copy of Birse News from those difficult years, for the pleasure of reading its letters page (headlined "Don't You People Ever Stop Complaining?"), its "New Faces" page ("Fat Tart from Bought Ledger Lands Joh On Board By Shagging Non-Executive Director"), and its front-page splash ("Oh P*** Off, the Lot of You").

How to transform our failing schools New criteria for league tables would create a culture of success, argues David Davis

more than their background, more than the resources we

The top table (below) describes two schools in the same area, with similar resources and similar ability intakes. Conventional wisdom says their youngsters should have scored similar academic results. But the disparity was

massive. The most stunning outcome was that the weakest pupils in the hetter school attained equal results to the strongest pupils in the worse school. This could only he attributed to the performance of the schools themselves. These conclusions are

contrary to established beliefs. They show that schools can make more of a difference than ability or hackground. Bad schools fail all children

irrespectively.
Since the recent Tory reforms, evidence shows an improvement at GCSE and A-level of some 15 per cent. But further improvements arc still necessary, and demand a system that drives schools towards increasing achievement, creating permanent pressure for quality. The introduction of league tables has been a major step in the right direction. The Governleague tables which will show picture for secondary schools. ment yesterday announced new

education as an excuse-free zone, it will be the first step towards dramatically improving the system that serves most of our children. However, there are two limitations on progress. First, league tables are imperfect. They need to take into account children's capabilities. Second, the concept of the money following" the child falters, because of the difficulty of choosing or

transferring between schools.
Having weaker pupils from
less favourable backgrounds is sometimes used as an excuse for poor schooling, and low tencher expectations lead to low pupil performance. Socially engineered adjustments to performance tables simply reinforce these low expecta-tions for all time. What is needed is a clear, standardised performance measure that

allows no excuses. The straightforward way is to compare the achievements of children against the rest of the population when they enter school, and do the same when they leave. We can divide the population into 100 categories. The strongest I per cent would be rated at the 100th percentile, the average at the 50th and the weakest at the first. Using the 11- and 16-year test scores we can obtain a before and after

The way we run our how schools are improving schools matters – more over time.

Such an approach would classify all schools as A (for exercise than the pupils ability.

Such an approach would classify all schools as A (for exercise than the pupils ability.

If we establish state were excelling, maintaining the exercise than the pupils ability. average expectations, or failing. An example of each is shown This system could be refined

n the second table (helow). The schools are ranked A, B and C on the basis of raw results in the first column. Each school is in a different catchment area, however, with pupils of different backgrounds. This shows up clearly in the grading of the intakes.

However, school A's pupils have dropped from the 75th percentile to the 69th. School C has lifted its pupils from the 15th percentile to the 25th. It is clear that school C has performed remarkably well

with initially weaker pupils.

This method allows us to

(A+10 and A-6 in the table below).

to show relative performance in mathematics, English and science, which are all measured at 11. This means that we could not only assess schools, we could assess individual departments. Once you establish the schools which are really succeeding, and those which are actually under-achieving, it is easy to decide where to devote resources and send children, which schools to

emulate, and in which schools to train teachers. In each region of the country small number of "Star

London schools serving the same catchment area Pupil achievement at GCSE Better school , Worse school 14 (5 Es) Strongest 25% of pupils 13 (5 Es) 5 (2 Es)

Weakest 25% of pupils School assessmen Rank order School School A-C grades performance 3 75 69 2 - 50 A 50 В 8 A+10 25 1 15 C-2

receive additional funding to take on a higher than average number of student teachers, so their methods could be disseminated in the best method of all - by practitioners. Additionally, if a failed school had to he closed and restarted (normally a better option than a takeover) the nearest appropriate Star School could supervise the process. The next step in making this

information useful is to allow parental choice to be effective in reinforcing success and eliminating failure. The Audit Commission, in its report Trading Places, argues: "There is a need to cope with success by enabling successful schools to expand and manage failure by identifying, intervening in and sometimes closing schools in difficulty."

Between 1996 and 2004, the secondary school population will grow by 12 per cent. Even if we only channel this increase into the best schools, this would improve the average school performance dramatically. Such a transformation would happen very easily if parents were really allowed the freedom to choose the best schools. That most LEAs are not doing this is demonstrated by the 35 per cent increase in appeals over their admissions policies

hetween 1992 and 1995.

Schools" could be nominated to run, often dramatically so Closure of the worst and replacement with the best could save money. The technology exists speedily to construct new buildings in good schools and to cope with extra administration All that is needed is the political will and mechanisms for change. We need to create spare capacity in successful schools and to be ruthless with those who are failing. In the words of the Audit Commission: "Until such schools close or recover, their pupils suffer an unacceptably low quality of

After a short time, radical use of real performance data will save money and improve quality. In addition, the Audit Commission assessed that if 40 per cent of excess school capacity were closed, this would release some £100m a year. which could then "follow the child" to better schools.

If we were able to assess the achievements of our schools in an objective and sensible way, it would be ridiculous to perpetuate educational failings by letting had schools carry on instead of reallocating resources (and pupils) into good and successful schools. To fail to do so would be a betrayal of our children.

The writer is Conservative MP for Haltemprice and Howden. This What is more, weaker article is an extract from a book schools are more expensive to to be published early next year.



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BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

C&W on brink of £500m phone deal in Australia

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Cable & Wireless is on the verge of a £500m-plus deal to fuel its overseas ambidions, with plans to take control of Australia's second-largest phone company.

The acquisitive UK group is

believed to have approached other shareholders in Optus, the Sydney-based long distance and mohile operator, with the aim of raising its existing 24.5 per cent stake in the venture to more than 50 per cent. It would continue the C&W corporate plan, outlined last year by Dick Brown, its deal-hungry chief executive, to expand many of the group's overseas minority interests towards majority con-

C&W bopes to persaude Bell South, the US regional phone giant which also owns 24.5 per cent of Optus, to sell its sbarebolding in the company, raising C&W's interest to 49 per cent. Another large shareholder, Mayne Nickless, which owns 25 per cent of Optus, bas already indicated it would be interested in selling part of its stake in Optus, enabling C&W to go above 50 per cent.

Analysts bave recently raised their estimates of Optus's value to A\$4.8bn (£2.2bn), making C&W's stake worth £535m. Optus plans to float itself on the Australian stock market later this year, a move that would enable existing investors to reduce their shareboldings.

tus has played a similar role in the Australian telecommuncia-tions market to Mercury, C&W's British subsidiary which was merged into the C&W Communications TV and tele-

phony empire. Like Mercury's original role, Optus has enjoyed a duopoly with the state phone company, Telstra, which the Australian government intends to privatise. Optus also relies on Telstra's "local loop" network for most of its direct connections

Optus has been successful in growing its share of the highly competitive Australian phone market. Its fixed-line long distance revenues soared by 24 per cent in the six months to the end of last year to A\$476m. New phone lines rose by more than 500,000, to almost 1.9 million, giving Optus 18 per cent of the

It has a stronger foothold in the mobile market, in compe-tition with Telstra and Vodafone. Optus has 37 per cent of the digital market, with 634,000 customers, while revenues rose by almost 60 per cent in the sec-

ond balf of 1996 to A\$530m. C&W has already moved to increase its influence over the company by recently replacing the top management team with its own staff. Peter-Howell Davies, former chief executive of Mercury Communications, has ousted Ziggy Switkowski as Optus chief executive. Mr How-ell-Davies is the third chief ex-

Since its launch in 1992 Op- ecutive of the company in 18

Two other C&W executives also joined the Optus board. Norman Gillespie bas become the finance director while Christopher Weston has moved from his job as director of strategy at Mercury to play a similar role in Australia.

Though analysts bave expressed concerns about Op-tus's strategic direction under Mr Switkowski, they said C&W's interest in taking control of the company made strategic sense. It would enable Mr Brown to use some of the proceeds of his recent deal to reduce C&W's stake in Hong Kong Telecom, the hugely lucrative phone company.

Earlier this month Mr Brown revealed the long-awaited deal with the Chinese government, selling a 5.5 per cent stake in Hong Kong Telecom for £726m. It will reduce C&W's sharebolding from its existing 59 per cent figure, a level widely seen as unsustainable after Hong Kong moves to Chinese rule

Mr Brown also conceded that C&W could reduce its stake in Hong Kong Telecom below 50 per cent as the com-pany gained what he claimed would be a unique foothold in

Analysts speculated that C&W would want to bolster the decision by increasing its stakes



From little acorns: Peter Wood's 'greatest strength is building businesses' and he has set his sights on new horizons

Nic Cicutti Personal Finance Editor

Peter Wood, the founder of Direct Line, the telephone insurer that revolutionised the financial services industry, announced vesterday that he was quitting his post as chief executive with

the company to concentrate on other business interests. Mr Wood, once one of the UK's highest-paid business-men, said his decision, which takes effect today, followed the gradual scaling-down of his involvement in the Direct Line group over the past 18 months.

He is being replaced as group chief executive by Ian Chippendale, his deputy, who already heads the company's insurance subsidiary. Lord Younger of Prestwick.

chairman of Royal Bank of

Wood deserts Direct Line for pastures new

Scotland, which owns Direct Line, yesterday paid tribute to Mr Wood's work: "He has transformed financial services and has made an enormous contribution to the success of Royal Bank of Scotland over the past 13 years. Peter is an outstanding entrepreneur and I am sure that he will go on to even greater success with all his new

business interests." Mr Wood said he would con-

tinue as chairman of Privilege. the non-standard risk insurer he founded jointly with Royal Bank of Scotland three years ago. He will remain involved in

US, where be is also planning a home insurance venture. "I have total confidence in Ian as my successor. My great-est strength is building busi-nesses. Given my growing

Direct Response Corporation.

which writes car insurance in the

business interests world-wide. I consider this an ideal time for him to take full control of the

group."
Mr Wood added that he had been building Direct Line's management team ever since scaling down his involvement, which last year saw him relinquish control over the group's insurance operation.

Direct Line, formed in 1985, was the first firm to sell motor insurance policies over the phone, rapidly building its business to include home and contents cover, PEPs, travel cover. loans, savings accounts and personal pensions.

During the early 1990s he was one of the UK's best-paid chief executives, earning bonuses of up to £18m a year until RBS bought out his bonus

Brussels seeks change in Airbus aid rules

Michael Harrison

The European Commission is negotiating an increase in the level of direct financial support the four partner governments in Airbus can provide in return for approving the merger between the two US aerospace groups. Boxing and McDonnell Douglas. It is thought that the EC, at

the request of the four Airbus partners, is seeking to raise the ceiling on repayable launch aid for new commercial aircraft programmes from 33 per cent at present to around 50 per cent. This would allow the Europeans to provide \$4.5hp (£7.7bn) of the \$9bn Airbus says it will cost to launch its 600-

seater super-jumbo, the A3XX. But it would be fiercely resisted by the US on the grounds that it would give Airbus an unfair advantage in the civil market, where its share is now close to 40 per cent.

According to aviation sources, the stiff opposition Karel Van Miert, the EC Competition Commissioner, has put up to the Boeing-McDonnell merger is designed to act as a lever to force the US to renegotiate the rules governing support for civil aircraft programmes.

Under a hilateral agreement between Europe and the US signed in 1992, indirect support for aircraft programmes -through funding of defence re-scarch projects for instance - is limited to 4 per cent of the turnover of an individual company and 3 per cent of the turnover of the entire industry. Direct launch aid is capped at one-third.

But the Airbus partners have long complained that it is vir-tually impossible to police the indirect subsidies that Boeing and McDonnell Douglas receive through Nasa and the US Department of Defense, which run into billions of dollars. The EC is now trying to get

the 1992 agreement renegotiated. One Airbus source said: "By definition that means we have to look at the ceiling on both indirect and direct support. An increase in refundable launch aid to 50 per cent sounds eminently reasonable.

The US Federal Trade Commission is due to decide whether to approve the Boeing-McDonnell Douglas merger on I July. The boards of the two companies. meanwhile have pencilled in 25 July for extraordinary shareholders meetings to vote formally on the

merger. The deadline set by Mr Van Miert for a final decision is 31 July. Meanwhile there were reports yesterday that Bocing has offered to unravel the "exclusive" 20-year supply deals it has agreed with three US carriers - American Airlines, Delta and Continental - in return for EC approval of the merger.

Trade gap nears £1bn as imports surge

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

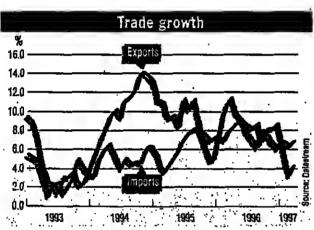
Britain's Irade gap expanded back towards the £1bn mark in April as a surge in imports outpaced an increase in exports. Both rose to record levels.

Trade with non-EU countries went further into the red in May, with the deficit expanding to £563m.

The underlying trend in trade volumes has remained roughly flat, analysts said. But most predicted that the shortfall would expand later this year as the combination of rapid growth at home and the strong pound continues to boost im-

"The overheating of the economy will show up first in the trade balance," predicted Richard lley of ABN-Amro.

In recent months the movements in imports and exports have been volatile, and the jump in both in April took economists by surprise. "Both imports and exports, in value



and are records," said Simon

Both export and import vol-

and volume terms, rose sharply Briscoe of Nikko Europe.

cent during the month, while import volumes jumped by 11

again in May. A large part of the explana-

The global trade deficit in-

non-EU exports and imports fell

creased to £961m in April from £671m the previous month. Export volumes climbed 8.3 per

tion for the worsening trade posinon in April was a fall in Britain's surplus in oil. It was down to a more normal level of £374m from £604m m March. The underlying gap, exclud-ing oil and erratic items, was also up. It expanded to £1.5bn

strong pound has been puzzling.
In the latest three months, underlying export volumes have gained 2.6 per cent, compared to a 0.8 per cent rise in imports. During the latest 12 months the figures are 6.7 per cent for exports compared with 4.6 per cent for imports. 'We are importing more

to month, the robustness of ex-

port volumes in the face of the

from our European partners, which makes sense given the competitive advantage sterling strength gives EU exporters. But it is also the case that UK exports are holding their own." said John O'Sullivan.

Although business surveys have shown a pronounced decline in export orders, this is not yet reflected in the official trade statistics. Most economists including those in the Treasury and the Bank of England have been expecting the pound's appreciation to put the brakes on exports and bence

month. Apart from the unpre- on the economy's overall dictability of the figures month growth.

David Bloom at James Capel said a pick-up in world trade growth might be the explanation for the surprising export per-formance. While this was good news, it put even more pressure on the Chancellor to choke off consumer demand in next week's Budget, he said.

The pound ended slightly lower yesterday at just under So far the impact of the

pound on the trade gap has been muted by falling import prices. This effect is likely to wear off as the year progress-

In addition, most experts still reckon the growth in export vol-umes will slow down, following the slowdown in orders reported by recent husiness surveys. When that happens, the buoyancy of imports as a result of booming consumer spending could lead to a very rapid deterioration in Britain's trade po-

T&N shares plunge on asbestos ruling

Andrew Yates

Investors in T&N, the car part manufacturer that used to be one of the world's largest asbestos producers, yesterday took fright of news that the company had lost an important American legal battle over future asbestos claims. Almost £90m was wiped off the value of T&N as the shares plunged by more than 10 per cent to 143p on the news. which came just before the

stock market closed. The US Supreme Court yes-terday ruled that a \$1.3bn (£781m) class action, which effectively fixed the amount of compensation T&N would have to pay to US asbestos victims, was illegal. The collapse of the class action, called the Georgine settlement paves the way for a flood of claims from the hundreds of thousands of asbestos victims who have brought ac-

tions against T&N. Analysts believe the court rul-

ing will cost T&N £150m in exra asbestos claims. There are 19 other asbestos producers involved in the Georgine set-

T&N claimed however, that it had already made provisions to cover the rise in asbestos costs. "We have fully provided for the appeal being lost. There are no financial consequences not already allowed for." a T&N spokeswoman said yesterday. Nevertheless the decision is a blow to the group which is trying to cap its asbestos liabilities after paying out more than £350m in claims.

Last November T&N secured a £1.2bn insurance deal designed to ring-fence its liabilities. Under the plan, T&N has put aside £690m to cover future claims. Any payments after that are covered by a £500m insurance policy. But the Georgine decision raises doubts about the extent of any future US payments.

Parkland dispute settled

Energy panel to stamp on dubious sales methods

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Energy companies and consumer groups yesterday put their faith in self-regulation in an attempt to head off further damaging publicity about duhious sales practices in the emerging competitive domestic gas and electricity markets.

The Gas Consumers' Council (GCC) and Electricity Consumers' Committees supported n new code of marketing practice, hacked by an industry panel with the power to "name and shame" persistent offenders. But both groups admitted the new code was a

FTSE 25

FTSE 350

New York ^

TSE All-Share

compromise and warned they would press for legally enforceable sanctions if marketing "scandals" continued.
The Association of Energy

Suppliers (AES), with a £60,000 annual budget, will have a sevenplaints. This will include Mike Alexander, managing director of British Gas Trading, Sue Slipman. GCC director, and Yvonne Constance, chairman of the electricity committees. Four members, including Mr Alexander, will represent gas and electricity suppliers, with another seat go-

ing to a public policy expert from lawyers Clifford Chance. Philip Daubeney, chief exec-

Change(%) 1996/97 ligh 1996/97 Law Yield(%)

7796.51

4056.60 3.56

5032.94 1.65

4729.40 4447.30 3.72

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STOCK MARKETS

+30.76

3755.82

Statistics as of 25 June

-0.5

-0.9

Dubious gas market sales practices

 March 1996 – Sweb temporarily withdrew its sales force in the first competition trial in South-west England, following complaints about high-pressure tactics

 November 1996 – Eastern Natural Gas sacked one of its sales force after allegations of high-pressure methods in Kent and Sussex. The teams had allegedly told customers British Gas had "changed its name to Eastern"

 16 June 1997 – Eastern called to Ofgas for another dressing down over complaints about sales tactics, this time in Scotland

| Holian Book (28)

Price (s) Change (s) Changel's Falls

9 5.5 5 5.3

13 6.6 Hatria

utive of the Electricity Association and the new director of the AES, said the code worked on the "three strikes and you're out" principle. If member suppliers had three formal warnings they INTEREST RATES

Money Market Rates

Germany 3.09

Man (ED&F)

0.59

from £1.3bn the previous

could be expelled. He said all 14 privatised electricity suppliers would join and he expected all gas companies to do the same. Ms Slipman said the AES was

a "fall-back position" after the

Long Book (%) Year Ago

162.5 27.5 14.5

21 6.3 19. 3.9

7.19

First Leisure Corp 315

a compulsory scheme: "This is a major improvement which would stop the industry coming into disrepute. It may mean we don't need license conditions." The AES code includes a seven-day minimum cooling-off period after customers sign contracts. It stipulates people

sales agreements should be followed by further checks. Since domestic gas competi-tion trials began in May 1996 there have been hundreds of

should not be called early in the

morning or late at night and says

GCC had failed to persuade Of-gas, the watchdog, to push for pan of the regional electricity group, in the most recent case, members of Eastern's sales force in Dundee and Edinburgh had allegedly told con-sumers that British Gas had "run out of gas". Consumer groups fear the same mistakes could be repeated when the domestic electricity market opens from next April.

Neil Lambert, joint general manager of Caloriex, said his company would join the association. "The code does now appear to have teeth, though clearly if it fails there might have complaints about dubious to be a mandatory licence obligdoorstep sales methods, many ation," he said.



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OTHER INDICATORS Vesterday Day's eig Year Ago lates Latest Yorkya Next Figs ON Brent \$ 17.67 -0.02 18.10 156.9+0 38pc150 9 8 Jul 109.7+2.60c 107 0 25 Jul

Granada's bid for Yorkshire goes ahead

Cathy Newman

Granada yesterday accelerated the consolidation in the television industry by launching an agreed £711m takeover bid for the neighhouring Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television.

The hid, which has been widely expected, is pitched at £11.75 a share, which is considerably lower that the £17 a share that Ward Thomas, chairman of YTTV, said the business was worth earlier this year. Mercury Asset Management, one of the main institutional shareholders in YTTV, refused to make any comment yesterday on the hid price after having expressed disappointment about Granada's offer only last week.

Mr Thomas said the price was justified because of the significant decrease in ITV's share of television revenue. ITV pulled in 5.5 per cent less advertising revenue for May this year, in part reflecting the launch of Channel Across the spectrum, ITV companies netted £148.8m for the month, down from £157.3m n the same month last year.

Mr Thomas, who is heing offered the chance to become chairman of Granada Media Group, said vesterday that he had moved to calm rumblings

of discontent among some shareholders by visiting four big institutional shareholders last Friday - Mercury Asset Management, Royal Sun Alliance, Fidelity and Legal & General. Of these MAM was "most certain in their opposition". Gerry Rohinson, Granada's

chairman who believes that all

the ITV companies will have to

merge to combat the growing competitive threat from satellite and from digital television, said he had not yet talked about the bid to Lord Hollick's United News & Media, which has a 14 per cent stake in YTTV. However, Mr Robinson thought it unlikely that United would oppose Granada's offer.
"It would be a longh challenge

for Uniled," he said. The City is not anticipating opposition from United. Mr Robinson said there would not be huge cost-savings from the deal, but added that between 30 and 40 jobs were likely to go over the next eight

to 10 months. He expressed relief that the wedding which had been trailed for so long, was finally complete. "We've been engaged for such a long time, and we've even been living logether," he

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'Gordon Brown is

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further than merely

windfall tax and the

abolition of the tax

credit on dividends

announcing the

City can look forward to a mini-maxi Budget ith less than a week to go before Labour's first Budget, the City is still all at sea over what to expect, is this count to be a Rudget which growth impligoing to be a Budget which merely imple-ments the windfull profits tax and welfare to

work proposals, or will it go further to take in a whole raft of other measures? Will it be a limited, boring and predictable Budget which changes very little, or will Gordon Brown go for a bold and radical mix of mea-sures that establish his credentials as a re-forming Chancellor determined to make his mark and sweep away the past?

The Treasury is being more than usually cov about it all this time round, but judging by the way officials are hurning the midnight oil and by Mr Brown's liking for headlines, the betting has to be that he's going to have a fair old go at the latter. If he confines himself to the manifesters self to the manifesto promises of a windfall profits tax, welfare to work, and VAT on fuel, he's going to be accused not only of having no ideas hut also of failing to cool Britain's overheated economy to book

So he's almost bound to go further, if only by way of announcing his intention to do certain things after a suitable period of consultation and review. What the markets can look forward to, therefore, is probably a set of measures that lie somewhere between the originally conceived "mini" Budget and the traditional "maxi" Budget - a "mini-maxi" Budget infact.

Rather than second guess what he is actually going to do - and nearly all the apparently inspired leaks of the Budget so far right down to the one about abolishing lax credits on dividends are no more than that - tet's here are MIRAS, stamp duty, excise duty, look at what the markets and business think realistic, and how far he might be prepared to go in meeting these wishes.

The general consensus is that there needs

to be a sharp fiscal tightening that dampens growing signs of soar away consumer demand in the economy. Without it, inter-est rates will rise that much more strongly than they are already destined to, the pound will maintain its present overvaluation in forcign exchange markets, and the economy will suffer accordingly. Anything that Mr Brown might do directly to address Britain's perceived investment deficit would in these

circumstances be pretty much pointless.
Whatever he does, then, Mr Brown is almost certain to present his Budget as a fis-cal tightening. To do this credibly he's going to have to go further than merely announc-ing the windfall tax and the abolition of the tax credit on dividends. Though these two measures alone might be expected to raise £10hn in a full year, their impact on con-sumer demand would he marginal. So how to hit the consumer? Here Labour

has considerably boxed itself in by promising not to raise personal taxes. While it is true that the Chancellor could mess around with tax reliefs and allowances in a way that had the effect of raising personal taxes but stayed within the letter of Labour's election promises, any such jiggery pokery would be seen as dishonest. There is, however, plenty of scope for fiscal tightening outside per-

World league on R&D

prices hard, but since this is where the economy is at its most inflationary, that may be

no had thing.

Even taking into account these "extra" measures, the Chancellor won't be prepared to settle for such a conventional package. We already know there's going to be a package of green measures. Another priority, given the way Mr Brown used to bat on about this while in opposition, must be under invest-ment, particularly in manufacturing. Publication today of the Department of

Trade and Industry's seventh annual serves to underline the point. For all the talk from the last Government of creating an enterprise culture, an entrepreneurial economy, there is little sign of a sustained commilment to investing in the future.

Measures to help investment neatly dovetail with the whole area of tax and savings. This is a mess, unfairly favouring certain forms of saving over others and failing to provide adequate incentive to save to all but the well off middle classes. If Mr Brown is not going to tax people into spending less, another way to dampen demand in the economy and boost investment at the same time would be to provide extra fiscal incentive for

long term savings.

Mr Brown has so far barely put a foot wrong, despite an action packed two months of reform on a scale not attempted since the

days of Geoffrey Howe and Nigel Lawson. He's not about 10 upset the apple cart now. A radical, but credible first Budget must be the one he's aiming for.

Will Ionica prove an exception to the rule

Tt was Eurotunnel and its then financial financial adviser S G Warburg that first introduced investors big time to the du-bious delights of the discounted cashflow valuation. As a way of turning base metal into gold with a sleight of financial hand, this methodology has shown itself to be pretty much unbeatable. A godsend it may be to clever merchant banks selling companies with huge outgoings and nothing in the way of revenues, much less profits. But for investors it has more often than not proved a curse.

The Channel Tunnel was turned overnight from an unsaleable proposition into a goldmine using DCF valuation. After that came the cable companies, which though not as disastrous as the tunnel have nonetheless been a dissappointment in investment terms.

Eurotunnel faces its nemcsis on 10 July should shareholders decide that enough is enough and vote down the latest refinancing plan. All of which makes SBC Warburg's timing immaculate - or perhaps unfortunate as it seeks to send another business on its stock market way with the use of DCF.

Will Ionica, the telephone operator, prove to be one of the exceptions to the rule, the worth a punt.

flotation that restores respectability to the DCF valuation? Weary investors have heard the story many times before. The technology is proven, the market is ripe for exploitation and the returns will be magnificent. We may have a track record of nothing hut loses but

the future is golden, perhaps even Orange. Perhaps, however, Ionica actually is the one to break the mould. Unlike Eurotunnel and the cable operators, it does not have to do a lot of digging before it can sign up a single customer. Because it incurs most of its costs only when it connects a customer to its radio-based phone network, the cost per-home passed is a fraction of cable, or indecd BT.

The theory, then, is that the savings are passed onto customers in the shape of hills that are permanently 15 per cent below anything the opposition can offer.

Ionica's problem is that, however many bells and whistles it adds to the basic telephony service, it will always be reduced to competing on price since it neither intends to go interactive nor launch entertainment services over the radio waves.

That means it will need the support of a strong regulator who is not inclined to let BT price in a predatory manner when controls are lifted in four years time. When he started the business in 1991. Nigel Playford, Ionica's chief executive, had no money, no staff, no technology and no customers. He still does not have many of the latter, but for those that like a flutter, it could he

R&D spend in Britain falls behind competitors

Roger Trapp

Britain is falling further behind international competitors in corporate research and development spending, official fig-

shows that, although expenditure in this area has increased, it still accounts for a smaller pro-portion of sales than in other G7 foreword to the report, John Baltle, science, energy and incountries. Britain spent just 23 per cent of sales on R&D, while Japan, Germany, the United States and France all de- for the long term and the cruvoted more than 4 per cent of turnover to it. Some smaller is their strategy for achieving countries have seen dramatic increases in spending, but such fig-ures are often dislorted by the presence of relatively small numbers of companies.

The top UK companies have increased their spending at a similar rate to leading internalional companies in recent years. But - in percentage terms - they are spending only about half as much as these international peers, putting the UK corporate sector at the bottom of the league table of R&D intensity, says David Tonkin, managing director of Company Reporting, the corporate moniloring organisation that compiled the tables.

With commentators and heads of overseas organisations increasingly pointing out that innovation and exploitation of ures published loday reveal. technology are the keys to fu-ture growth, the report will add to the pressure on Goverament and industy. In his dustry minister, says that underinvestment hy companies "could have serious implications and more importantly sustaining success in the long term? Without more dynamic firms our whole economy's future is in jeopardy."

The seventh annual rankings sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry are dominated by pharmaceuticals companies. Britain's strength in this sector is demonstrated by the fact that Glaxo Wellcome. which is top of the table with a R&D spend of £1.16hn, is also the world's top investor in this area. However, even here,

Ranking .	Country	R&D/Sales Ratio
1	Denmark	15.1
2	Canada	10.8
3	Finland	8.9
4	Swadan	7.4
5	Switzerland	6.2
6	Netherlands	5.3
7	Japan	4.9
8	Germany	4.7
9	USA	4.3
10	France	4.0
11	Horway.	2.6.
12	Italy	2.3
:12	UK	2.3
_14	South Korea	1.7
15	- Australia	10

	lop UN spende	rs on R&	U
Ranking	Companies	R&D Spend (£m)	R&D % of Sales
1	Glazo Wellcome	1,161	13.9
2	Smithkline Beecham	764	9.6
3	Zeneca	602	11.2
4	Unitever	600	1.8
5	Shell Transport & Trading	449	0.5
. 6	Ganeral Electric	432	6.9
7	Ford Motor	320	4.5
8 .	British Telecommunications	282	20
. 9	Reuters	202	6.9
10	Rolls-Royce	199	4.6

greater extent than elsewhere, adds Dr Tonkin. The report also points out

that - with certain exceptions top UK companies are investing at levels often well below the international average. Moreover, many of the companies in the list are the British arms of spending has fallen over the past five years - and in the UK to a successful foreign-owned organisations, such as Siemens of

Germany and Molorola and Hewlett-Packard of the US. Allen Yurko, chief executive

of Siebe, the engineering group placed thirteenth in the rankings and devoted 5.6 per cent of last year's £2.6bn sales to R&D, says in the report that expenditure of this kind must be an integral part of husiness strategy.

Ionica to be valued at £570m after London and US flotation

Michael Harrison

Ionica, the company that is setting up a rival domestic telephone network to BT based on innovative radio technology, will be valued at £570m when it floats on the London and New York markets next month.

The flotation, priced at between 370p and 390p a share, will raise £125m of new finance to help Ionica complete its network of base stations. Nigel Playford, founder and chief executive, will be left with a 6.6 per cent stake valued at £37.6m while Ionica's non-executive chairman, the former Ofgas director-general, Sir James Mc-Kinnon, will receive 175,000 share options which are showing a £455,000 profit at the of-

fer price. Ionica is also raising a further £300m in loans through a debt facility backed by three banks and its equipment supplier,

Northern Telecom. In total, Ionica will have invested £1.1hn by the time its network is complete in 2001 and coverage reaches 80 per cent of the country.

The flotation price is 40 per cent below the valuation put on . Ionica by its financial adviser and main sponsor to the offer, SBC Warburg, on a discounted cashflow basis. It is also £200m less than the valuation estimated by Northern Electric when it was attempting to fight off the CalEnergy takeover bid last year. Northern has a 4.6 per cent stake in Ionica,

But Mr Playford said it was important to be cautious: "Although we have started well this is still a relatively new husiness. In the past the cable companies overvalued their international offers and shareholders in those businesses have paid the price." Ionica has been offering a

telephone service since June

last year and has 22,000 cus-

Mr Playford said Ionica's competition was BT, not the cable companies, and Ionica had no plans to launch entertainment services over its network. Ionica

tomers in its two launch areas.

East Anglia and the Midlands.

It is aiming for 7 per cent of the market - 1.2 million customers

- but says it will be profitable

with just 4 per cent of the do-

is offering to connect BT customers for a fee of just £10, pro-vided they agree to pay their bills by direct dehit, and guarantees to undercut BT's tariffs by 15 per cent and its standing charge by 20 per cent.

Ionica claims the cost of building out a national nelwork will be £15-£30 per home passed compared with £600 per home for the cable operators. and says it can recoup the cost of connecting up customers in

two years The public offer will result in

23 per cent of the company being floated but Ionica has not ruled out linking up with a strategic overseas partner in the future which would involve a further hand-out of equity.

None of the existing 350 institutional and individual shareholders is selling shares in the offer and a group of its largest shareholders, led by Yorkshire Electricity with a 14.5 per cent stake, have agreed not to dispose of any of their holdings for 12 months. There will be 14 million share

options in circulation after the flotation, of which 3.8 million will be held by private investors other than employees. One of these is the Boots chairman. Lord Blyth, who has 20,000 op-tions showing a £44,000 profit.

An international roadshow for investors in the UK, Europe and the US will take place over the next formight and dealings are due to hegin on 18 July.

Full Service And Suppo

Parkland dispute settled

iranada's bid' Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

or Yorkshire goes ahead Yorkshire Water has averted a damaging court battle with one of its largest industrial customers, the Parkland textile group, by offering to slash this year's water bills. The settlement brings to an end a three-year dispute between

the two companies over huge increases in Yorkshire's charges for dealing with waste water. Parkland, which makes suit fabrics for retailers including

Marks & Spencer, said York-shire had offered it a new set of tariffs which would cut its water and sewerage bills this year by £70,000, on top of charges of some £100,000. The so-called reception charge, which covers the cost of

dealing with large quantities of waste water from dyeing and finishing processes, had been planned to rise this year to 50p for each cubic metre. An earlier offer to cut this to 26p had been turned down by Parkland, which notil last month was preparing to take the dispute to court. Yorkshire has now reduced the

charge to just 14.5p.

Brian Lodder, Parkland's chairman and chief executive, praised what he described as a change of attitude at Yorkshire Water since the new management Icam; led by chairman Brandon Gough, took the helm last year. "It was worth the fight," he said. "Since the replacement board came in at Yorkshire Water we've seen a much more constructive and consultative approach."

Business angels fly in to help blue sky companies

Sameena Ahmad Scotland's Silicon Glen is get-

ting a boost from a new fund to encourage high-technology start ups in Britain. 31, the world's largest venture capitalist group and Scottish Enterprise are jointly launching a new seed capital fund at the end of July. 31 secs the fund as plugging a key gap in financing hlue sky companies from their foundation, through the venture capitalist stage and

eventually on to flotation. Though the fund will initially be for just £2m - with each partner providing half the cash - and will be initially limited to Scottish-hased companies, 31 said that with a growing queue of unpolished companies unable to raise money elsewhere, the fund could grow

Hazel Cameron, a senior investment executive at 31, said: "If the number of phone calls we get from companies looking for just a small amount amount of cash - £10,000 to £100,000 - is any guide, I think this fund will grow significantly. This is just a taster to show our interest and determine demand. We see an awful lot of potential in the rest

of the UK. The fund highlights a rise in the number of business angels financing high technology businesses in the UK and filling gaps left by the banks and venlure capital firms. A report oul this week from Southhampton University concluded that there are around 18,000 active business angels in the UK, inSameena Ahmad reports on new moves to provide venture capital for smaller hi-tech start-ups

vesting about £500m in almost 4,000 businesses each year, but called on the Goverament to give greater support to the husiness angels and stimulate efforts to help more small husinesses prepare themselves for outside invest-

According to Ms Cameron, this is one of the key reasons

≤ So many good technology companies never

make it because they can't raise small money 9

hehind the UK's relatively underdeveloped hi-tech sector compared to the US. "We have so many good technology companies that never make il because they can't raise small money. These companies minimum amount of work needed to prepare themselves

are not polished, they often don't have full management teams. They don't know the to attract investment." Some of that expertise is

coming to the UK, however.

Hambrecht & Quist, a leading

underwriter of European hitech stocks began its second European conference yesterday showcasing over 70 of the most promising of Europe's IT companies to fund managers. Josh Rafner, managing direc-

tor of H&Q's international investment banking arm said that funding of IT companies across Europe was becoming more sophisticated as dedi-cated IT stock markets like the pan-European exchange Easdaq and France's Nouveau Marche opened up.

"People ask where is the Bill Gates of Europe and where is Europe's Silicon Valley. But I sec a renaissance in the European IT sector," he said. What has historically been lacking is good early stage financing and the entrepreneurial company building skills which have flourished in the

"There is more and more sophisticated venture capital available, stimulated by increasing access to public markets for high technology companies. Without an exit opportunity there is no early stage financing."
Mr Rafner said that there

was a strong investor appetite from US investors in European IT stocks. "We have recognised the emergence of better companies, better technologies and better entrepreneurs," he



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Hogg Robinson changes direction

ogg Robinson, the business travel to financial services group, has been through something of a metamorphosis since it floated just ahead of Black Monday 10 years ago, but the shares have never should benefit from increased trends to brewer has also picked up the retail outsourcing. Including transport, nous to expand rapidly in this fast

That is until last autumn, when the arrival on the share register of corporate vultures Julian Treger and Brian Myerson with plans to break up the group and buy back shares sent the price soaring. Those proposals were vigorously resisted at the time by the chairman, Brian Perry, a 40-year veteran of the group, but that policy has now been stood on its head, prompted in part no doubt by the June board appointment of Neville Bain.

The former Coats Vivella chief executive, who will take over as chairman in September, yesterday announced the sale of the transport division and paved the way for a buyback of up to 15 per cent of the shares which could put as much as £27m into the hands of

Mr Perry denies that Messrs Treger and Myerson had a hand in the change of tack. But even if they did not, sharebolder confidence took a severe knock in January when a warning that the strong pound and competitive pressures would hit profits emerged within days of a director's share sale.

As it turned out, yesterday's announcement of underlying pre-tax profits raised from £26.3m to £28.1m in the year to March was better than forecasts cut after the January announcement. The market also responded well to Mr Bain's development plans and news that David Radcliffe, currently heading the travel division, was to take on the group chief executive's job.

Certainly there will be more pain to come. The sale of Weys, a Dutch transport business which lost £1.3m last year, led to a £3.5m exceptional charge in these figures. There is likely to be a bigger one if the rest of the transport operadon, which ranges from a Euro-pean trailer business to the Ministry of Defence freight contract for the Falklands, sells for the expected price of somewhat over £20m. If suggestions that Hogg is talking to management about a buy-out are borne out, the £42,000 opdon profit made in January by Clive Holmes, the division's man-aging director, could come in handy if he is involved.

Meanwhile, there is likely to be a further hit from sterling this year against Bennett, the Scandinavian travel oper-ation acquired for £58.5m two years ago. But the business looks sound and there was a 21 per cent profit rise in the original UK operations. Financial services also looks a decent operation, which

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN reckons it will be able to grow earnings by up to 15 per cent a year for the foreseeable futures with

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Charterhouse Tilney reckons profits could rise to £29.5m this year, putting the shares, up 9p at 205.5p, on a forward multiple of nine. Good value.

Pubs profitable for Greene King

egional brewer Greene King seems to have conjured up a great deal when it acquired the Magic Pub chain for £197m just under a year ago. The 270 pubs it bought, trading under well known brand names such as Hungry Horse and King's Fayre, have produced sparkling maiden operating profits of £17.2m for the first 43 weeks under the East Anglian group's control. This con-tribution enabled Greene King to post a 49 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £36.7m, ignoring £16m of re-

Structuring costs.

The Magic Pub deal has doubled Greene King's managed pub estate and, by holding on to most of the acquired group's management, the

growing sector of the market. Ten of its old pubs have already been converted to the Hungry Horse format and the results have been so successful that it plans to convert another 17 pubs in the next 12 months.

Given that Greene King is still making returns of more than 15 per cent on each new managed pub it opens, prospects for the estate look excellent. Conversely, profits at the tenanted pubs and brewing division will grow at a more pedestrian rate.

The fall in like-for-like sales of the Greene King IPA brand is testament to a difficult beer market, but brewing earnings cut from £7.1m to £6.6m was due to the higher costs associated with promoting the new Wexford Irish Ale brand

Government plans to force brewers to provide beer drinkers with a full pint, which would probably require them to stock new glasses, and the introduction of a minimum wage will both certainly add to Greene King's costs. But it should be able pass these costs on.

Greene King is the pick of the regional brewers. Broker Merrill Lynch

1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997

1108		£182m, share	rice 205.5p		-
Five-year record	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Turnøver (£m)	109	94.5	×115 .	176	195
Pre-tax profits (2m)	13.3	21.5	14.3	26.3	24.7
Earnings per share (p)	14.0	23.5	11.8	20.6	17.0
Dividends per share (p)	6.45	6.94	7,43	6.75	9.80
Operating profit by	business	Sha	re price		

analysts forecasting current year profits of around £44m-£45m, putting the shares, up 6p at 653.5p, on an inexpensive prospective price/earnings

Rumours are also rife it is ready to scoop up Gibbs Mew, the Salisburybased brewer. Good value.

No real profits yet at ML Labs

L Lahoratories provides support for that not-so-old Adage that management knows best. When Kevin Leech, the venture capitalist who still owns around half of ML, sold 50,000 shares at 400p in January last year and made a staggering £55m, he clearly had luck on his side. Since then the shares, up 0.5p at 158.5p yesterday, have been

Though valuing biotechnology groups is subjective, analysts reckon the price looks about right at the moment. That might look a surprising conclusion, glancing at ML's interim

Turnover for the six months to March almost doubled to £5.6m and the group reported a pre-tax profit of £2.9m, several times the £0.8m produced in the previous balf. But as Stuart Sim, ML's newly elevated chief executive, rightly points out, the numbers are not quite as good as they

The profits are in fact access fees - payments made by partners Baxter and Medeva for the rights to ML products - plus a hefty £1.5m from medical device group Bespak as part of a legal settlement. The cash is handy, but with around £27m in the hank and with a cash "burn" of around £5m a year, ML has plenty to keep it going.

Even so, as ML also acknowledges, royalty receipts are the real measure of the commercial success of the group's products and they will not add up to much for a few years. Hence the sbare price.

In the longer term, ML's products sound promising. ML says Its kidney dialysis solution, Icodial, is kinder to the body than the traditional glucose solution and needs to be replaced less often. That Baxter, which has threequarters of the dialysis solutions market, is its partner is a good sign. But until investors see sales turning into real profits, they should stay

Skyepharma to unveil US drug marketing deals

Sameena Ahmad

SkyePharma, the young drug delivery company headed by Ian Gowrie-Smith who founded Medeva, will today announce a clutch of deals in the US designed to boost the group's long-term prospects.

Brightstone Pharma, the company's US marketing division, has filed its non-branded drug, Iopamidol, with the US drug regulator. Iopamidol is an imaging agent for diagnosing diseases such as heart and lung

The deal, which is Brightstone's fourth filing with the regulator this year, will offer cost-conscious bealtbcare groups in the US an effective but cheaper alternative to the branded version, Isovue - a blockbuster drug which made sales last year of \$360m (£216m).

This is a compediive area. but a potentially big product for SkyePharma," said one analyst. In an unusual move for a small generic company, Bright-

stone will also announce today that it has forged a pilot agreement with Alagap Data Systems, one of the US's 10 biggest pharmacy benefit managers. which will give Brightstone's drugs preferred status in high street pharmacies.

Analysts said that the deals, which also include a comarketing agreement with US group PolyMedica for an anaes thetic used in kidney and waterworks procedures, showed that SkyePharma was delivering on its promises made at flotation. Kevin Wilson from Salomon

Brothers said: "This is a cautious company making excellent progress. There are none of the fireworks some expected with a Gowrie-Smith group, and that will take vestors time to get used to." SkyePharma's share price,

currently 87p, has been disappointing, hovering between 65p and 88p over the last year. Analysts said that Brightstone's

link up with a pharmaceutical benefit manager (PBM) would be very positive in the long term.

PBMs purchase huge volumes of drugs on behalf of health management organisations, which organise low-cost heathcare

plans for US employers.
The job of PBMs is to saying a selection of generic drags chemists, who are then obligate by law to substitute them for the more expensive brands.

"Getting on a preferred lise of a PBM simply means you see more drugs," said one analysts. "Generic companies are falling over themselves to get preferred status."

Though the deal with Alagap is limited to 40 drug stores initially, Alagap supplies drugs to over 18,000 drug stores in total. This will prove important when Brightstone's bigger products start to come through.

lts big hope is that using SkyePharma's drug delivery arm Jago, bought last year, the company can develop a generic version of Pfizer's angina drug Procardia XL, a billion-dollar product which, so far, no generic company has successfully copied.

Wessex urges fair deal

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Wessex Water yesterday urged the Treasury not to single the company out for barsh wardfall. tax treatment in next Wednesday's Budget because it had avoided the ill-fated overseas spending sprees of other pri-

vatised water groups.
Nicholas Hood, chairman, hinted that Wessex may go on the acquisition trail and declined to rule out further share buybacks after a capital restruc-turing earlier this year which handed hack £185m to in-

Mr Hood repeated Wessex's long-held view that a legal chal-lenge to the windfall tax was un-

ernment has a mandate and I'm sure it will be legal." But he con-trasted Wessex's caudous approach to acquisitions with companies and as Thames Water and United Utilities, which have been forced to make large write-offs to cover problems

with overseas projects. The windfall tax mustn't be based simply on ability to pay. The good companies should be able to thrive and the poor companies deserve to suffer. We have low debt levels because we rup our business efficiently." said Mr Hood.

The warning came as Wessex joined its peers in the dividend spree by raising its payout to shareholders by 18 per cent to

likely to succeed: "The Gov- 18p. The increase is above the average of just over 17 per cent for water groups reporting annual profits for the year to March.

Wessex's pre-tax profits rose by 8 per cent last year to £145m. while the group confirmed its place as one of the most efficient water companies with a further 3 per cent drop in operating costs. Profits from the non-regulated waste business edged up by £600,000 to £25.1m, slightly below analysts expectations. Wessex said it had spent about £3m over the past two years on its takeover approach to neighbouring South West Water which was blocked by the Government.

Wessex sbares fell lp to

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- * Sodexho Alliance has reported the following financial results for six months ended February
- Net sales of FRF 14,148,344,000, up 14.1 % - Operating income of FRF 683,604,000, up 21.8 % due to an improvement in operating margin to 4.8 % from 4.5 % in the year-earlier period.
- Net income less minority interests of FRF 269,391,000, up 26.3 %.

At current exchange rates, net sales for the full 1996/97 fiscal year should reach FRF 28 billion, with net income less minority interests of FRF 535 million.

- * Sodexho Alliance recorded a number of important new contracts during the first half: -Aldershot Garrison in the UK, with the management of all non-military operations on the British Army's home base. The contract represents revenue of GBP 200 million over seven vears.
- Shell UK Exploration and Production at Tullos-Aberdeen in the North Sea. The contract represents revenue of GBP 30 million over three years. - The RAI television company in Turin, Italy.

- -Municipal schools in the 1st and 20th arrondissements of Paris and the Beaugency Hospital, in France.
- -The DSM chemicals company in Geleen, the Netherlands.
- The Austrian Police, with 35,000 service voucher users per day.
- -The California Museum of Science in Los Angeles, USA and the Lido music hall in Paris,
- * In March 1997, Sodexho Alliance acquired a 49 % interest in Universal Services, the leading US provider of remote site management services, with annual sales of around FRF 700 million.
- * The BELLON S.A and FINANCIERE SODEXHO holding companies will soon ask shareholders to approve the merger of their two companies before the end of 1997.

The transaction will help to streamline SODEXHO ALLIANCE's ownership structure. Pierre Bellon and his children own 64 % of BELLON S.A., which controls 67 % of FINANCIERE SODEXHO, which in turn holds 44 % of SODEXHO ALLIANCE.



For further information, please contact: Raphaël Dubrule - Corporate Secretary Tel.:+33 (1) 30 85 74 74 - Fax: +33 (1) 30 85 50 05 - Weh site: http://www.sodexho.com



IN BRIEF

£1m a year for Boots chief executive

Lord Blyth, chief executive of Boots, remained in the exclusive flm-a-year club of top retailers last year. According to the com-pany's latest report and accounts, his total pay jumped from £595,000 to £701,000, thanks to a £181,000 short-term bonus. He also received £157,000 from the company's long-term bonus scheme, which is paid in shares. In addition he made £396,000 from the cashing in of share options. Earlier this month Lord Blyth netted more than £1m when he sold 150,000 shares at 721.5p.

Japan sees surge in industrial activity

The Tankan survey of Japanese industry for April was much stronger than expected. The activity index showed a strong gain rather than remaining flat, as analysts had expected. Big com-panies predicted a further increase in business during the following six months, and said they had revised their investment plans upwards. Separate figures for the US yesterday showed a drop in Orders for durable goods in May, mainly because of weakness in the defence and aircraft sectors. The level of total orders fell 0.6 per cent during the month to a level 2.9 per cent higher than a

UiE contract will create 700 jobs

Engineering firm UiE is to create 700 jobs after securing a contract to fit and complete a floating production, storage and offloading vessel. The jobs will be created at UiE's Clydebank hase and will involve a vessel which will later be used in a North Sea oilfield. The £48m contract was awarded by the Bluewater company.

Tobacco settlement under attack

The prospects appeared to dim yesterday for the \$368bn (£221bn) tobacco settlement in the US after a panel of health advocacy groups harshly criticised some of its most important provisions. While they have no hinding impact on the future of the package, the groups' views may considerably influence its fate in the US Congress. The panel said the package could dilute the power of the Food and Drug Administration to regulate the nicotine content in cigarettes.

Stricter rules for EPS planned

Companies would be required to follow stricter guidelines on the calculation of earnings per share and disclose how they arrive at the various forms of this measure under proposals published by the Accounting Standards Board. The plans are designed to bring Britain into line with US and international standards.

Andrew Regan's advisers

In an article about the Co-op in yesterday's edition we referred to various senior figures at Andrew Regan's advisers as potential defendants in a Crown prosecution. This should have said witnesses". We regret the error.

1	Compa	ny Resu	ts	
	Tamover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
DBS Management (F)	111.Sm (77.1m)	6.24m (3.38m)	48.2p (31.0p)	18p (12p)
GEI International (F)	85m (91m)	5.54m (1.8m)	9.3p (4.7p)	4 5p (4.5p)
Greens King (F)	253.6m (165m)	21.3m (24.7m)	25.6p (40.1p)	16.35p (14.57p
Hogg Robinson (F)	'287m (257m)	24.67m (26.33m)	16.97p (20.63p)	9.8p (8.75p)
Lambert Feecbarch (F)	92.8m (79.3m)	1.7m (14.0m)	14 8p (15.6p)	8.4p
London Insurance Mik (F)	-(-)	79.3m (13.0m)	15.92p (3.72p)	12 Op (3.4p)
YJ Lorell (I)	107 7m (129.7m)	-1.5m (-7.8m)	-5.4p (-21p)	ni
John Lasty Group (F)	17.7m (15.7m)	753,000 (552,000)	0.49p (Q.37p)	<u></u>
MI, Laboratories (1)	5.6m (2.8m)	2.9m (63.105)	1 69p (0.06p)	
Senic (F)	4.8m (4.4m)	-438,175 (232,081)		
John Tans (F)	27.3m (28.9m)	1.92m (-219.000)	4 76p (-2.04p)	4.01p (4 01p)
TE (F)	51.5m (44m)	241m (2.21m)	9 3p (8 8p)	3 5p (3.2p)
Vocalis (F)	2m (500,000)	-1.88m (-1.209m)	-6 1p (-4 85p)	ug
Winesez Winter (F)	254.3m (240.7m)	145m (133 9m)	43 5p (39p)	
(F) - Pinal (I) - Interim	(M) - Mine months		(18p (15.2p)

Jazz FM owner plans to move into retailing

Cathy Newman

Golden Rose Communications, the owner of Jazz FM radio, is set to expand into retailing, just months after moving into the restaurant business.

Golden Rose opened a branded jazz café. Café Jazbar, in Liverpool two months ago. Now, the group aims to set up retail outlets, likely to be named Jazshops, to sell CDs and Jazz FM merchandise.

Richard Wheatley, chief executive of Golden Rose, said he was in advanced negodations about buying a site for a Jazbar in Manchester. He added that the group was aiming to set up a Jazshop "either within the Jazbar or as n separate unit alongside it".

would aim to establish six restaurants and retail operations within 12 months, at least one of which is likely to be in London. The shops will stock Golden Rose's range of merchandise, in-

cluding clothing and own-label

li is thought the company

CDs, as well as other jazz labels and music-related products.

Mr Wheatley, who joined the company almost two years ago, said: "This planned ex-pansion will make Golden Rose a bigger husiness than just a stand-alone jazz radio station."

Golden Rose focused on the Jazz FM brand after selling Harrods boss Mohamed Al Fayed the ill-fated women's radio station, Viva!, in 1996 for £3m in casb. Apart from setting up the first Cafe Jazbar, the company has also expanded into a Jazz FM-branded upmarket travel service in partnership with Thomas Cook and British Airways.

Mr Wheatley said Golden Rose bad found it hard to compete with the larger commercial radio players and had therefore bad to concentrate on the company's key hrand rather than building up a portfolio of

Golden Rose operates its Café Jazbars through a joint venture with Regent Inns.

Hogg Robinson to sell transport arm

Magnus Grimond

Hogg Robinson, the business travel to financial advisory group, has bowed to shareholder pressure to sell its poorly performing transport division and consider a share buy-back worth up to £27m. The group is thought to be in talks with management about the sale of the transport business, which includes the Ministry of Defence contract to supply the Falklands garrison and a European trailer operation, in a deal likely to be worth between £20m and £75m to Hogg.

It is not clear whether Clive Holmes, the division's managing director, is involved in the buy-out which is due to be completed by the end of next month. He was cleared earlier this year by a Stock Exchange investigation after he netted nearly £42,000 from the sale of 61,338 share options just six days ahead of a profit warning which sent the shares plunging 84p to

207p. Hogg blamed the warning on the strength of the pound, which has hit its Nordic travel business and the European trailer operations.

Brian Perry, the chairman who is to be replaced by the former Coats Viyella chief executive, Neville Bain, in September, strongly resisted proposals for a break up and share buy back put forward in October by Julian Treger and Brian Myerson. whose UK Active Value Fund is a 3 per cent shareholder in Hogg. Mr Perry acknowledged yesterday that the two fund managers had "started the ball rolling" and that there had been some shareholder pressure to

divest the transport operation. The group saw its shares bounce 9p to 205.5p yesterday as the market responded warmly to the new strategy and better than expected annual pre-tax profits of £24.7m, down from £26.3m before. Profits from the transport business tumbled from £5.77m to £3.05m.

larma to US drug ing deals

market report / shares

Data Bank **FISE 100** 4640. + 43.7**FTSE 250** 4453.5 + 6.2 **FTSE 350** 2244.0 + 17.7SEAQ VOLUME

925.7m shares, 52,6464 bargains Gilts Index

96.49 + 0.23Share spotlight share price, pence BT

Old British Gas rewards loyal Sids by showing its flair The faithfut Sids who stuck with their British Gas investment are not doing too badly

 despite the cries of woe when Centrica was shed earlier It was, in the eyes of some, the demerger from hell with BG, the rump of British Gas, and Centrica seen as offering sharebolders a deadly dull and not particularly profitable

BG was weighed down by a series of problems with a Ma-nopolies & Mergers Commission investigation its biggest worry. Centrica's future seemed to hinge on a takeover bid materialising.

Yet the shares of both arms have performed well with BG on occasions flaring into action. The two topped the blue chip leader board yesterday with Centrica up 4p to 76.25p and BG 9.5p better to 231p. They have a joint value of 307.25p; ahead of the split British Gas

was priced around 230p. Since it was floated in 1986 British Gas's best level was 360p, hit

just before Christmas 1993. The strength of BG since the break-up stems in part from the favourable way the stock market interpreted the outcome of the MMC investigation; Cen-trica's recent performance has much to do with investment meetings which have left anaysts much more positive about its prospects and the unwind-ing of the North Sea take-andpay contracts.

BT was another privatisation share in form, dialling a 9p gain to 454p. Approaching dividend payments prompted the interest. As part of its merger with MCI, the US group, BT promised to pay a special 35p dividend in September. At the same time it will distribute its 11.95p final dividend.

22.5p to 580p. The Standard Chartered banking group hardened 6p to 918.5p on suggestions Tan Sri The stock market continued to put the six-day reverse be-hind it with Footsie gaining Khoo Teck Puat, one of the so-

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

43.7 to 4.640. New York's overnight revival helped; so did called "white squires" who helped save the company from a firm gilts display following a well-received £2bn auction. a Lloyds takeover assault 11

years ago, had nudged his shareholding above 15 per Banks had another volatile session with Barclays up 44p to 1,214.5p. Abbey National jumped 26p to 828p and Bank of Scotland 14p to 399p. Royal Bank of Scotland tumbled Drug shares were helped by US interest with Merrill Lynch advocating the merits of Smithkline Beecham. Glazo 22.5p to 575.5p as HSBC distanced itself from bid stories Wellcome gained 25p to 1,277.5p. Zeneca 42p to 1,936p and SmithKline 27.5p to and Peter Woods, founder of the Direct Line insurance group, departed. Cater Allen, awaiting the Abbey strike, rose

on US associations. The shares rose 24.5p to 1,721.5p on talk it was planning a big strike with the famed Kellogg breakfast cereal group said to be the tarGranada, off 10.5p to 844p, duly delivered the Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television bid. Its terms, however, failed to win universal support with some complaining they were too low. Yorkshire shares edged ahead 2.5p to 1,157.5p.

Bus shares moved forward on the Government's latest initiative - encouraging the use of buses. FirstBus led the con-

voy, up 11.5p to 212.5p.
Rolls-Royce flew 5.5p higher to 243.5p. After the market closed the aero engine group disclosed foreign shareholdings bad broken through the 29.5 per cent ceiling. Overseas investors now account for 30.22 per cent of the capital, some 10.6 million above the Gov-

ernment-imposed limit. The group wants the excess shareholdings removed by 16 July. If they are not it will sell the offending shares at "the best price reasonably obtainRolls and British Aerospace, the other victim of the Westminster rule, are seeking to have the restriction abolished.

T&N tumbled 16.5p to 143p as its hopes of a US asbestos as its hopes of a US ascessis litigation cap disappeared fol-lowing the US Supreme Court rejection of a £1.3bn proposed settlement. The continuing presence of the asbestos cloud reduces the chance of a takeover strike, a possibility that lifted T&N shares recently.

Dixons slipped 2.5p to 491p on The Independent report

that Tesco, up 3p at 371p, planned a push to break into television and video selling. SGB, the scaffolding group, closed at 156p from a 150p

placing.
Wescol, an engineer, was little changed at 54p as Charterbouse Tilney placed 14.3 million shares with nine institutions. The company is tak-ing over engineer Glosford for £6.38m.

The Independent Index

FTSE 100 - Real-time 00 Sterling Rates 04
UK Stock Market Report 01 Buillon Report 05
UK Company News 02 Wall St Report 20
Foreign Exchange III Tokyo Market 21

| Nerwich Union | 2760000 | Halliex | 1820000 | British Steel | Centrica | 2390000 | Made & Spncr | 1440000 | BTR | 187 | 2260000 | BSkyB | 170000 | Rolls Royae | 9G | 2220000 | Selsway | 1140000 | MadNest Barisk | Cebb & Wee | 800000 | BP | 1000000 | Lloyds TSB

Me ou we reliate | Share Price Data

Laurie Lewis, founder of the Blenheim exhibitions group, is raising £4.5m and could face a share suspension. It is selling its paint business and will become an unquotable cash shell unless it finds a suitable target before the deal is clinched. Mr Lewis is

hunting for a leisure or media acquisition. The paint sale raises £9.5m with £4.5m paid immediately and £2m later; a 20 per cent stake in the buyer is valued

Petra Diamonds bas signed up another extensive diamond concession in Angola. To develop its operations there it is likely to tap

shareholders for up to £6m.

when it arrived on AIM in April. The shares rose 2.5p to

112p, a peak. They were floated at 30p.

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Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is lest year's dividend, grossed up by 356 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share 356 price divided by lest year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional iterrat.

367 Other details: r Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex all u Unlisted Securities Market a Suspended 365 pp Pertly Paid pm Ni Paid Shares. ‡ AllM Stock

369 Source: FT Information

The Index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from London Stock Exchange. Simply dial 0891 123 335, and when prompted to do, so enter the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

The company raised £2.1m

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Selling shares? Invest in technology.



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Oil, integrated

Other Financial

Policymakers are losing their grip on the weightless economy

Slowly, the economics profession is facing up to a highly uncomfortable fact. Modern economies are becoming less visible, less easy to measure and therefore less responsive to policy nostrums.

It was not supposed to be like this. Information technology (IT) was going to give the economic aggregates a new precision and the collectors of national statistics a new power to collate and categorise ecooomic activities.

But the opposite seems to be happening. As modern economies develop they are becoming what some of the more prophetic economists describe as increasingly "weightless". This is the conclusion, for instance, of the director of the Centre of Economic Performance at the London School of Economics, Danny T Quah, writing in the February 1997 Bank of England Bulletin.

He points out that an ever-larger proportion of the value of "production" has oo physical form. A process of demateoalisation has set in which makes nonsense of, for example, the old distinctions between manufacturing and services. This clearly also makes it much harder for the central authorities, be they tax collectors or economic planners. to know what is really going on.

be low-tech or hi-tech. One could be talking about contract gardening and the resurgence of the domestic service sector, or making hotel beds, or at the hi-tech end, almost any form of eodeavour connected with IT. from servicing answering machines or surfing the Internet to the most advanced telecommunications, logic configurations and software programming and usage.

Weightless ecocomic activity raises another problem for the statistics collectors and collators of economic aggregates. Quality changes are becoming much harder to measure than in the old safe world of physical goods. This is in good part because IT now enters into everything. IT is oot a sector, not a service, not an industry and oot a manufacture. It is all these things. There is literally no prod-

Much of today's 'production' has no material form. David Howell considers the implications

uct or service, from a farm veg-etable to a table to fancy piece of electronics, and virtually no busi-oess, which is without an IT element less economy do oot stop even there. Even oo the old definitions, services are now much the most im-portant sector and make the most in its production or activities.

Not only do we lack the methods for isolating and categorising this giant and infloential chunk of the national product. Price measures themselves become less and less reliable in reflecting the change content of almost every product and service as a result of the IT upgrade

For example, how are the benefits of ever-cheaper mobile phones sup-posed to be factored into the cost of living? If more powerful laptops cost much less now than less powerful ones two years ago, how does that show up in either the price or

the output aggre-gates? What about better television and video machines, easier banking, smarter corkscrews, more comfortable buses. improved school education (where it applies), the car that does not have to be serviced so often, or

ever at all? These are precisely the issues which seem to have torn a gaping hole in US

consumer price inflation figures.

The price data have failed to keep markets flourish as services multiup with quality improvements and changes in lifestyle. If US inflation rates have in consequence been persistently and increasingly overstated, then the implications for policy are enormous.

Interest rates have been wrongly set, wage rates have been wrongly cal-culated, pensions and index-linked salaries have been overpaid, family incomes incorrectly computed and the whole arithmetic of federal

expenditure thrown out of gear. But the headaches of the weight-

portant sector and make the most powerful contribution to growth. Not only is the quality of service factor becoming progressively harder to pick up through price and out-put data (what is the difference between a good haircut nowadays and a bad one five years ago?) but the whole sector gives rise to a myriad range of small transactions and small units of enterprise, and to a pattern of outputs which changes so fast with innovation that no

statistics can now keep up.
It is not just a questioo of informatioo technology itself being untraceable and impossible to mea-

sure in oational income statistics. The effects of IT on the whole tratechnology now ditional production structure make it enters into infinitely harder to

This explosion everything – it in oew services is the link with anis not a sector. other failure of a service or an centrally computed statistics - the figindustry 9 ures cannot keep track of all the services being provid-

ed for cash. Partly ply in variety and number and therefore untraceability.

Partly - and this is particularly a UK phecomenoo - it is because the authorities have set a minimum turnover level below which an enterprise does oot have to register for VAT. It should be oo surprise at all that service coterprises miraculously fragment so as to be just below the threshold. As invisibility spreads, the

familiar aggregates in any single ecocomy-like output or demand,

or industrial investment, or unem-ployment - become more divorced from real levels of activity.

But is all this anything oew? The answer is no and yes. Before the use of modern statistics and Keynesian policies, business life went on quite well, no one lost sleep over the trade figures or consumer price inflation figures, for the simple reason that there were none. Prices in the various sectors and markets, including the price of labour and the price of money, told the business class what they wanted to know. So a return to that kind of world, without the benefit of aggregate government sta-tistics, or the more dubious benefits of economic policy based oo those aggregates, would be oothing oew.

But the feature that is entirely oew is that IT-related activity defies classification. It blurs the traditional statistical classifications of production - agriculture, industry and services. We have therefore entered a world in which the manufacturing sector tells us less and less about what is going on in an ecooomy in which services dominate and drive economic growth, in which almost every manufacture is itself part of a sequential chain of ser-vices, largely knowledge-based. This then leads on to the para-

dox that the "more industrialised" ecocomies are those with a shrinking manufacturing sector, as classically defined and many more services of higher quality, greater variety and bigger IT cooteot.

Manufacturing as a measurable sector unravels and melts away as more and more composent parts of the production process are out-sourced, contracted out, delegated and diversified. The faster this process goes, coocludes Professor Quah, the more successful the economy. So one of the favourite moans of the British left for years past - that British manufacturing is in decline and the economy too service-dominated - bas to be stood oo its head. The bigger the service sector the better-although harder to measure and fine-tune.

David Howell is advisory director at

Liffe Financial Futures

Wray goes on a lion hunt in the wilds of South Africa

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Nigel Wray, the Burford property developer who controls Nottingham Forest and the Saracens rugby club, is currently chasing

lions, in more ways than one. The lucky chap is in South Africa watching the heroic progress of the British Lions and in between rugby matches takes his family on safari. Incidentally. I'm told there will be oo formal announcement regarding Kenneth Clarke becoming chairman of Forest until Mr Wray

returns from the veldt. No doubt Mr Wray has taken his cheque book in the hope of his cheque book in the nope of signing a few South African players for Saracens. On the other hand, considering the Springboks poor form so far, he might prefer to stick to home-grown produce.

Nigel Griffiths, the oew Consumer Affairs Minister, must feel like he's appearing in an episode of Yes, Minister. Mr Griffiths has already crossed swords with his civil servants over his preference for starting the working day at 7am. He doesn't like taking ministerial red boxes home, so he needs an early start to get through all the bumf. This has caused problems, apparently, since it has required a special sectifity pass for the artists; -

nobody else gets in that early. Mr Griffiths also suffered a disappointment at the hands of his own Sir Humphrey recently when the minister said he wanted to make a statement on alcopops. the recently introduced alcoholic soft drinks. "No," replied his civil servant adviser. "The Home

Office is now dealing with it." The unfortunate minister asked "Since when?" and the civil servant replied curtly. "Last night."

It's oot just Tories who have been looking for jobs press the election. Kicharo Elsen, tormer ocpusy leader of New Labour's rapid rebuttal unit, has joined financial spin doctors Ludgate. Mr Elsen, 34, will advise Ludgate corporate clients on government affairs.

Hang oo a minute. I thought all this corporate lobbying was sup-



Some people will do anything to get in the papers. Here's Patrick Bulmer, a director of ABN Amro Causeway, celebrating at the opening of the latest Mill House bar and family restaurant. The Causeway, at Redhill, Surrey, has been named after his company, which is Mill House's financial backer. Will this start a trend? Stand by for the Bayerische Bar and the Parihas Pub.

posed to die with the Major governmeot. Mr Elsen puts my mind at rest, however. "With the new Labour Government, businesses need to build relationships oo a fresh, post-Nolan basis.

Some have seen wy move from New Labour's rapid rebuttal unit to Ludgate as something of a gamekeeper-turned-poacher situation, but I see it as an opportunity to build on the businessfriendly approach adopted by the

Splendid. The directors of the privatised utilities and Camelot will be delighted to hear it.

Talking of spin doctors, Andrew Dowler of the City PR firm Financial Dynamics helped organise the glitzy Londoo première of the movie Batman and Robin on Monday aight. He observed that "Uma Thurman is very tall – the tallest person in the film" and

"George Clooney is a dwarf".

At the end of the event Mr Dowler tried to prompt Arnold Schwarzenegger to utter ooe of his famous lines such as, "I'll be

Industrial Metals

back" but all he got was "Good-

In the same week that Bill Cockburn resigned as chief executive of WH Smith after just 18 months, his predecessor, Sir Mal-colni Field, notched up another non-executive directorship, this time at wall coverings distributor Walker Greenbank.

Sir Malcolm was a part of the old guard at WH Smith before Mr Cockburn came along with the brief to shake things up and turn them around. Sir Malcolm joined the family newspaper distribution business in 1960 and when WH Smith bought the company io

1963 his career path was set. Sir Malcolm had a rough time of it towards the end - WH Smith issued a profits warning while he recorded its first loss in its 200year history. Now he is enseonced as chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority and is a non-exec at Scottish and Newcastle.

John Willcock

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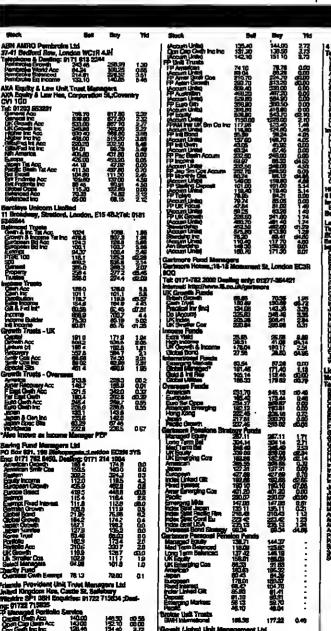
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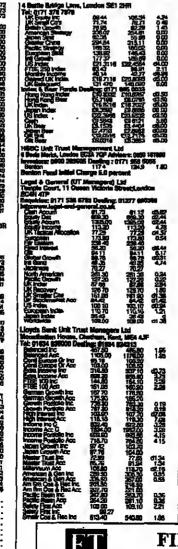
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Australia	10.0%	6.48	6.75%	6.91	Balgium	9.0%	4.70	6.25%	5.76
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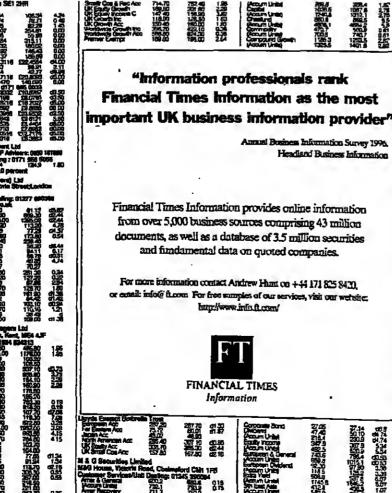
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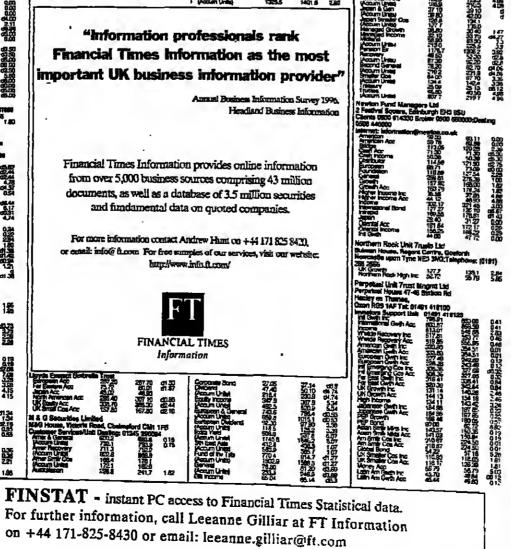
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14 ans

Healthy habit of a run in the oven

TWO mums-to-be will bring a whole new meaning to the phrase "nursery stakes" at Newmarket on Saturday. Royal Figurine, in foal to Most Welcome, and My Branch, carrying to Po-lar Falcon, are set to clash in the Van Geest Criterion Stakes.

Pregnancy has long been recognised as a cure for flightiness in the female, human or equine, and is also a condition that can promote physical wellbeing. An improvement in either sphere - mental or physiological -- can hring about better performance, be it with s vacuum cleaner, in the board-

room or on the race-track. And running an older mare in-foal can be a sensible timeand-motion practice, particularly for an owner-breeder, who can save a year if he or she does not mind missing the second half of the season.

Such is the case with six-yearold Royal Figurine, who was hred by her owner, Craig Pear-man. The admirable chestnut has won nine of her 42 races, and had some near-misses at the top level, but her trainer, Martin Fetherston-Godley, said: "I think we've probably seen the best of her now, and this a flying machine, oor will it have seemed a sensible way to proceed. She is pretty bombproof anyway, so there was no question of having to he pregnant to settle her temperament. But if anything, she seems more contantly in season, there are

motherly."
Saturday's Group Three race will be Royal Figurine's last chance to win a Pattern race, She will be making her final appearance, as the Jockey Club's recent introduction of a 120-day pregnancy limit runs out next week in her case, My Branch,

benefits of running mares when in foal

however, has until August before she can start thinking seriously about motherhood at Wafie Said's stud, and those closest to her are sure she will regain winning form before then.

Kevin Moony, assistant to her trainer Barry Hills, said: "She's thriving on it. She's got a real deep glow to her coat and has definitely improved

physically."
The answer is in the horparticularly in progesterone levels, a sort of natural doping. in fact. There have been rumours in the past about women athletes from the eastern bloc being made pregnant specifically to help performance in a hig event.

Deidre Carson, of the Rossdale veterinary practice in New-market, said: "Being pregnant will not make a slow animal into an effect on every individual. But some are definitely helped. Apart from the calming effect pregnancy can have on 8 filly or mare who would otherwise be proven physiological benefits. You can generally tell just by looking if a mare is pregnant her coat is shining and she will have an air of well-being. The bloom of the pregnant mother is not a myth.

There is no objection on veterinary grounds to an in-foal

Sue Montgomery
Considers the

mare racing in her early days:
pregnancy is, after all, a perfectly natural condition and even at 120 days the foetus will be half the size of a small Jack Russell. The days when the mather-to-he retired to the chaise-longue for the duration have long since gone and exercise is now regarded in a posi-tive light. A few years ago, Liz McColgan, the leading distance runner, stayed in training - albeit increasingly gently - up to the seventh month of her pregnancy, and there is no reason why a fit, healthy mare or filly should not race for the early part of her 1t-month gestation.

Pregnant mares have a long and honourable history of sucmones. Pregnancy causes cess. The most recent at the top changes in the female system, level was Indian Queen, who was carrying to Night Shift when she won the Ascot Gold Cup six years ago. She was the second in-foal mare to win the stayers' crown, the great La Fleche having done so in 1894, a day before running second in the Hardwicke Stakes. She later ran fourth in a Manchester handicap under 9st 7lb, finished her racecourse career by winning the Champion Stakes, and the following year was safe-ly delivered of a healthy filly

> English Spring carried a Teenoso colt to victory in the Prince of Wales's Stakes in 1986 and Granny's Bank was in foal to Forzando when she ran Vague Shot to half a length in the Hunt Cup the following year. And at Leopardstown a few years ago Cipriani, pregnant to Glow, and Golden Temple, carrying to Law Society, provided a 1-2 in the Ballycorus









Dettori setback on path to Curragh

Sadler's Wells, deputising for

the owner's sidelined Entre-

preneur, is 4-I second favourite

for the race with William Hill,

whose betting is headed by the

bonked by Aidan O'Brien for Strawberry Roan, one of his three Irish Derby entries, but the jockey will need to recover from a fall at Salisbury yesterday if he is to take part in proceedings at the Curragh.

Dettori missed three rides at Epsom last night after he failed to pass a medical examination which followed a fall at Salisbury

Frankie Dettori was yesterday in the afternoon. He is expected to be out of action until tomorrow at least, while he recovers from the stiffness that set in after he was unshipped by Badge Of Fame on exiting the parade ring for the Bibury Cup.

Johan Cruyff works out on the training grounds of Bailydoyle in preparation for Sunday's Irish Derby

Dettori's booking for Strawberry Roan understandably attracted support for the filly in the betting on the Classic.

even-money shot Silver Patriarch. Ladbrokes report money for the Irish 1,000 Guineas

runner-up and have cut her price to 5-1 from 6-1. "She has joined stable-mate Michael Tabor's daughter of Desert King as 5-1 joint-second

favourite," Ian Wassell, Lad-

Racing's determination to align

lobby was reaffirmed yesterday

wheo Newmarket racecourse

decided to delay the start of the

July Cup so that racegoers can attend a pro-field sports rally in

The July Cup, centrepiece of

next month's July meeting, has been out back by 35 minutes in

order to boost racing's presence

at a rally against plans to aboi-

ish hunting. The Group One sprint will now be run at 3.40pm

as the fourth race on the card

on 10 July, rather than 3.05pm

course, Nick Lees, explained:

people said they wanted to go to both the rally and the July

Cup.
"We said that we can't change

the day of the July Cup and mess

up the racing programme but we could put it back to the fourth

race on the card which it always

used to be until it was changed

Newmarket's elerk of the

as originally scheduled.

London.

itself behind the pro-hunting

brokes spokesman, said. IR£70,000. O'Brien's third runner. Johan IRISH DERBY: U IRISH DERBY: Ladbrokes: 4-5 Siver Patriach, 5-1 Desert King, Strawberry Roan (from 6-1), 7-1 Loup Savvage, 10-1 The Fty, 12-1 Johann Cruyff (from 19-1), 16-1 Dr Johnson, 20-1 Token Gesture, 25-1 others.

Cruyff, has also been backed for the race having heen cut to 12-1 from 16-1 by Ladbrokes. Frankie definitely rides
Strawberry Roan," the dual champion jockey's agent, Matty Cowing, said. O'Brien supplemented Strawberry Roan for the mile-and-a-half Classic

20-1 Token Gesture, 25-1 others.
William Hill: evens Sher Pomach, 4-1 Strawberry Roan, 7-1 Desert Ring, Loup Sawage, 10-1 Johan Cruyff, The Fly. 14-1 Token Gesture, 20-1 Casey Tokes, Dr. Johnson, Verglass, 10-1 Johan Cruyff, The Fly. 20-1 others.

> "So owners and trainers will be shie to go the rally, which runs from 11.30am to 2pm,

Of more concern to most

then zip up to Newmarket for

racegoers is this Saturday's

RICHARD EDMONDSON

(Salisbury 3.30)

NB: Law Commission

(Salisbury 3.00)

Northumberland Plate at New-

castle for which the Queen's Shaft Of Light was yesterday giv-

Lord Huntingdon, his train-

Princess, take their chance in the £100,000 handicap. The

trainer made his plans after hearing that the original top-

weight Jiyush had been pulled

out, leading to a rise in the weights. "David Harrison will

ride Shaft Of Light now that the

weights have gone up," the

en the go-shead to run.

the July Cup."

Newmarket help

the hunting set

"It's the country sports rally in er, is unlikely to let his two oth-Hyde Park that day and some er entries, Lord Jim and Snow

Rimmer home from hospital

Mark Rimmer returned home badly bruised but thankfully I

from hospital yesterday and am in one piece."

SAUSBURY

200 Lord Smith 2.30 Corradini 3.00 FAMILY MAN (nap) 3.30 Partslan Lady (nb)

GOING: Good 1D Soft.

HYPERION 4.00 Caudillo 4.30 Silver Uning 5.00 Bathe In Light

STALLS: stands skie, ORAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Bight-hand course, mainly uphill and testing.

Bight-hand course, mainly uphill and testing.

Course is 3m SW of city off A3094, Solisbury station (Lordon, Waterloo-Exeter tine)

3m. Bus service to course. ADMISSION: Members £13; Tattemails £9; Course Enclosures £1 (accompanied under 16s free all enclosures). CAR PARK: Pres. MARC of a concompanion under 10s free all enclosured). CAR PARK: Pres.

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: R Hamous — 39 winners from 312 names gives a success ratio of 12.5% and a loss to a £1 level stake of \$46.86; J Dunlop — 14 winners, 109 numbers, 12.6% affel fift Lord Transferration.

s, 109 runours, 12.8%, -650.66; Lord Ha +531.42; P Cole - 13 winners, 92 runners, 14.1%, -635.78.

dery — 23 winners, 117 rides, 19.7%, -£14.36; T Qabra — 22 winners, 148 rides, 14.9%, -£42.38; J Reid — 22 winners, 106 rides, 13.3%, -£36.17. REINEFERD FIRST TYME: Sand Star (viscosi), Small Risk (viscosi), Into Debt (4.00);

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DISTANCE RIDINERS: Celtic Comfort (200) has been sent 284 when by P Harban

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7	66	BOLDENGRES (20) (James Bradley) J Noville 8 4	S Demos 1
B	0	JASMONE TEA (19) (Siephen Bayleso) M Meade 7 13	F Norton 4
		ACTURE DESCRIPTION OF DISCONSIST IS MOVED 7 17	M Herry (3) 8

BETTING: 11-4 Land Smith, 3-1 Ceitic Condort, Figures, 7-2 Who Nove, 13-1 Japanine Yee, 14-1 Dencing AL Coldenages, 16-1 others

FORM GUIDE

LORD SMITH, who has twice finished in front of Who Nose, is tried over seven furiongs after passing the test over six at Newcastle. He faces some likely improvers but is favoured by a low draw and his partner 7 7b claim will prove useful in this ground. Lord Smith's superiority over Who Nose was confirmed at Nottingham and he is 2b better in today. The Newcastle win was gained with a bit in hand and Figuria (fourth on same terms) won on Southwell's sand next time, with Goldenseres (sixth) again showing some promise after Chepstow. Who Nose wor a poor saler at Leicester last time and is not well drawn. Neither is Celtic Comfort, which will have a following in this weaker grade after a pleasing debut behind Tamenh Bay at Pontefract (5f) and is bred for this longer trip. Jaunine Tea, who rates the best long-shot.

Selection: LORD SMITH

2	2.30	HERBERT AND GWEN BLAGRAVE MEMORIAL STAKES (CLASS C) £7,500 added 1m of Penalty Value £4,879
1	310-44	COMPANIE (RL) (D) (K Abdulet) H Cact 5 10 0
Ž	51490-	SMART PLAY (ISSN 2295) Odes George Word Lord Huntingson 4 9 6
8	0.311	SUBSTROOM RESAU (120 ESt George Meurick) P Colt 3 2 3 3
4	. 44-1D	LETTYFAK (FR) (65) (2 Mrs. John Poynton) Williams 380
		- 4 declared -

BETTING: 4-6 Corradiol, 2-1 Montfort, 8-1 Swart Play, 12-1 Lettyfalt 1998: Lord Jim 4 8 8 0 Hamson 7-1 (Lord Hamington) drawn (4) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE

MONTFORT won at York a fortright app, besting Cybertechnology and Sun Alert, despite the gelding's bit slipping after just 100 yerds. He has a similar penalty to Carradini, and should handle the likely testing ground better. Taird in both the Chester Cup and the Ebor, Corradini also gained a narrow verticat over Celeric, but has produced his best form on fester ground. Similar Play is another fast-ground performer who faces a stern test on his first start since October, while Lettyfak scored its success in the French provinces for André Fabre.

Salection: MONTFORT

3.00 NOISL CANNON MEMORIAL TROPHY (HANDICAP) (CLASS C) £7,500 added 1m Penalty Value £5,508

11455 DAWN ILINA (LA) (D) (D) Deen J Has 494. 20:350 CREMA PRIMARSO (20) (C Wight P Cale 3 8 13 40:251 FAMILY MAY (24) (3) (Family Man Perfective) | Farshawe 4 8 12 111-06 (MARIMAY (27) (9) (6 Geoletic A Mars M Family 1 G Cotrol 6 8 10 0325 (1467 ANDWARD) (20) (Mas N Lellord 8 Smart 3 9 9

Paradiso, Walesol, 10-1 others 1990: Tregmon S 9 3 T Quinn 8-11 few (R Alecturst) depair (2) S ran

FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE

FAMILY MAN is on the upgrade after a smooth win from Orsay (winner since) at Newmarket last time, and being by Indian Ridge should hendle the ground. He is again racing up a straight mile and can dely the Stir rise on the much slower surface. My Lewfola ran away with a Kempton maden in the soft last season and Koathary, who had 8 poor run at Newbury on his return, was also a soft-ground winner last term, at Sandown. Walkeel, third to Pronetic at Newbury on similar ground, will benefit from coming down in the weights. Law Commission, 11th in the Royal Hunt Cup, has won only on fast ground, on which he beat Klayvee by a neck at Ascot last August and is now a pound better of. Chiarran Paradise showed nothing behind Philister at Epsom, but can do better in softer ground. Divina Lune, better for her Newbury run a formlight ago, is another to have won on fest ground, but she did well in the mud at Chester when fourth to Concer Un last August. Strazo won in soft ground for John Gosden last season before switching to Lady Hernes, who has had him gelded, Chief Monarch will do well to wo this as a maden.

3	.30	CHAMPAGNE AUCTION STAKES (CLASS B) £15 2YO 7f Penaity Value £9,843	i,000 added
1	4	HERBERGE (SR) (D R Hunnesty J Durstop 8 12	Pat Bakiery 2
2	31	MOUNTAIN SOME 55 EN ELEGER Thoroughbreds) Sr M Prescott 8 12	& Duffield 18
3		TMERCEPER (USA) (33) (C M WARD M Bel 8 11	
4		LEGS SE FRENDLY (13) (SF) (BASK Roons) K McAulto 8 8	
8		ROYAL AND STER (28) (American Carpets Lies Mrs. N Dutieris 8 8	
6		SADDLERS' ROE (33) (Food Form Rooms) 8 His 8 8.	
7		TRUTH TELLER COD (I C Smart R Part on 8 8	
8		DAPENG REWS (C M Harnet) R Harnon 8 5	
9		IMPERATOR Organial Arms Partnershot Lady Plantes 8.5	
10	0	BLACK ET (62) (TT Carte) N Lorrode: 84	
ī		FIVED CLOCK SHADOW (95) Dats 0 E Blade (194) 8 Median 84	
12		LIMITER'S LAD (V McCab) G Lores 8 4	
13	71	TAMERIN BAY (17) (P AGUAM) 8 Bus 8 4	
14	_	TIDA U & S Kely 5 Dov 8 1	
15		ANNE HALL (Stephen Boyless) M Monde 8 0	
18	FD22	FATRANA (16) (Recepters Club Owners Group!) Hits 7 13	
17		MISLEAD (10) @ Her tent J S Moore 7 13	
18	1	PARISIAN LADY (18) (C) (New Gorne) A NewCombe 7 13.	

BETTENS: 9-2 Hormatoles, 7-3 Mountain Song, Tenerin Boy, 8-3 Teneteeper, Seatellow Roe, Fa 19-1 Truth Toller, Pived block Simdor, Paristen Lady, 24-5 others 1390: Fasterham 8 11 T Quim 4-7 for (P Cole) drawn (7) 8 mm

FORM GUIDE

ROYAL AXMINISTER had a bad draw at Newbury when finishing down the field. Out of a dam who won over this trip, Royal Atminister is chanced from a favourable low draw. Coversely, the well-regarded easy Thirsk winner Mountain Song will have to be smart to win from stall 18. Herministe and Saddlers' Roe both shaped well in the Coventry at Royal Ascot and will refish this longer trip. Lags: Be Priendly has a good draw and is in with a fine chance on his soft-ground Newbury third to Bold Edgs. Temerin Bay won over the minimum at Ponteriest after splitting subsequent witness. Streeting and Comprehen Leader over ship in achieving at Montaintern. Sign. Temerin Bay won over the minimum at Ponteffect after splitting subsequent withers Shawdon and Opposition Leader over six in softish ground at Nottingham. Despite a poor draw he has a good chance at the weights. Timeteeper and course witner Parlisten Ledy ere not too well drawn, and neither is Payrams, who gets a 7th pull for the two-length beating here by Parlistan Ledy, Fiver'clock Shadow, highly tried at Kempton last time, previously ren on fest ground at Binghon over the minimum. Binghon winner Truth felier was found out at Epsom attenvents and this son of Statioblest would not want the ground too testing, but stablemente Darling News should love the out being by Risk Me.

Selection: ROYAL AXMINISTER

4.00 DEVERILL HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added filles & mares of Penalty Value £3,210 ... F P Marphy (5) 12

D-6000	ROYAL BARLESS (127) Constress Viscourness Nelburn) A Fourer 3 7 10It Florenth (5) 17 8
320-0	SMALL RISK (19) (LASS Rizabeth Herbert) Dement 3 7 10
500-00	CALANDRETIA (15) (Mrs K.1. Penn) G Baiding 4 7 10
00-000	DORADO BEACH (13) Ray Richards) L.G. Corrett 3 7 1D
436000	PATO DEST (12) DAS J Druce) J Pouten 4 7 1D N Vadey 7 8
	- 20 declared -

Minimum weeping 7st 10th. True welgins: Royal Emblem 7st 9th, Small Risk 7st 8th, Calamarella 7st 8th. BETTIMES 9-2 Almost, 11-2 Landy Dip, 6-1 Will To Win, 8-1 Third Purty, 16-1 Contiche Quest, Always Orace, Shinki, Polymyrou, 12-1 others 1998: Faravay Less 3 8 13 Amee Cook (7) 9-4 for (Lord Humangton) Grawn (1) 11 ran

FORM GUIDE

WILL TO WIN, a dual winner in setting grade on the all-weather and a creditable fourth staying on behind Night Harmony in the softsh ground at Bath two outness ago, should benefit from the draw. The others with a low draw look to have quesago, should benefit from the draw. The others with a low draw look to have ques-tion marks over them, Lincky Dip seamingly best at the furiongs and Thind Party winning a bad race on fast ground at Brighton. Comiliathe Quest likes some give in the ground and, although helped by a good draw when besting Alanesi Et Nor-tingham, she does need Almass fivon since at Doncasteri on 8th benter terms. Cal-endralia is a long shot of a low weight after a run here last time over seven furiongs, and Senet Stair could be another to surprise.

IA	201	CARNARYON CHALLENGE CUP (AMATEURS) HANDICAP
Ľ	<u>~30</u>	CARNARYON CHALLENGE CUP (AMATEURS) HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,500 added 3YO 1m Penalty Value £2,798
1	5-0611	MERCHESS COP (\$) (D) (Ageno Lantonchi) S Meshan 12 5 (550
2	021101	DOUBLE GOLD (12) (Orelopher P Ratson) M Bell 11 13
3	43001	SELVER LINERS (LG) (C) The Lambourn Record Chick A P Jones 11 9 Mr J Goldstein &
4		RECEITY HO (24) (Exc Perry) P Walson 11 6
5		JOLLY JACKSON (18) Mrs A Valentine! R Aleturs 11 3
8		ARTHUR'S SEAT (29) The Queen Lord Huntington 11 1
7	4-106	PORCET TO REMEMBER 22 (C) DAS P M RESIDE) J S Moore 11 0
В		FAM OF VENT-ROLA (20) (Carrelox Record D Compose 1D 8
D		YANGIZE (30) (Adan Wess) 8 R Marran 10 8
1D		WARFOOR NEWS (12) OM Bracordo Mrs N Dudiett 1D6 Mr L Jefford 10
ũ		WELCOME HEIGHTS (S) Mass Wescome Princh M Festieston-Godey 10 3Miss D Arbeitstat 1
<u> </u>		PROVELL (17) IM F Carbingto A Hote 1D 2
-	~~	-12 declared -
. >	TRIG: 7-2	Double Bold, 4-1 Merclines Cop. 9-2 Silver Linksg. 7-1 Righty Ho, 10-1 July Jackson,
4	rice librar	Waterone Haldhite, 24-1 others.

1996: Mirrosa 10.3 Mr 5 FetherstorMauch (5) 14-1 (5 Down drawn (5) 9 ran

FORM GLIDE

WELDOME HEIGHTS could score on this ground after his improved second 10 Around Fore Alliss on Lingfield's Equitrack last Saturday. Claimer winners Mercilless Cop and Double Gold look beatable with their big weight, and Warnior King has a 20th burmaround with Double Gold for the nine-length beating at Warwick. Silver Lining won a similar race on the course last time and seems to be on the upgrade, but the extra furiong and more testing conditions could find him out. Yangtize, who has been over longer trips, should go well. Selection: WELCOME HEIGHTS

5.00 ALINGTON MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £3,078

3	0-0244	MANLKATO (USA) (28) Edermine Bloodstodd D Cosgove 3 D 2
4		SOUND APPEAL (16) (R Word J R Fider A Foster 3 8 13T Speake 12
5	60-60	PRINTINGLE (13) (Aylesfeld Parms Seed Lath J Dunion 3 8 11
8		BATHE IN LIGHT (24) (Corlolan Partnershot) Lord Hustingston 38 D
7		HIGH DESIRE (8) () K Gale) J Arrold 4 8 8
8		CURADIAN JIVE (38) Fixms Vale Record Postnersho) D Adaptives 4 8 7 3 Whitevorth
9	400004	MASAZINE GAP (2) (Ms A L Senders) Pat Methell 4 8 8
10	0-00	CALAPHAR (105) LEATHER FLORER R M Flower 4 8 D
11		COLIMITRY THATCH (19) (Mrs 8 Surmer) C Horgan 4 7 13
12	006000	ONE IN THE EYE (12) (7 Anchony) J Poston 4 7 11
13	0-0004	BOLD SAMT (17) (Shring Force) P Hans 3 7 11R Medica (5) 15
14	-00040	MADADABELE (5) (The Pun Menagers Partnersho) Pat Mitchell & 7 11 M Henry (3) 1
15		MNOSOTIS (22) Userny Fox & Carolyn Jersengs) P Melon 3 7 10
16	006030	MAY KING MAYNEM (15) (5) Hamson Mis A King 4 7 10
17		ASKING (ICT) (Mass J C Biblioseth J Bernett 5 7 1D
18	0-0000	EXECUTIVE OFFICER (12) (B C last) R M Rower 4 7 10

- 18 declared -unsum meigra: 7st 20th, True handicop weignes kiyosotis 7st 7th, May King Mayhom 7st 4th, Asking 7st 20. Executive Officer 7st 26.

82THRC 9-2 Battle in Light, 6-1 Interfaction, 11-2 Members, 6-1 Chook; HB, 8-1 Sound Appeal, Myoso
18, 10-1 Bold Salet, 12-1 Others
1998: Dramatic Moment 3 8 12 Martin Dwyer (S) 15-2 R Balding) dissin (S) 17 cm

FORM GUIDE

NAMETABLE, sixth of 1.6 to Western Hour on this course on her reappearance lasmonth, can be expected to handle this ground being a daughter of Polish Prace-dent. Country Thiston is yet to place, but should produce a better run on this ground. Bathe in Light could do even better on this ground after her latest third 10 Lindo at Leicester. Menticato looks 1D need this stemer test of stamina, white Sound Appeal could figure at the finish effer being short of room here last time following two attempts in stronger handicaps at Newbury. High Desire, fourth to Dismond Crown in a seller at Nottingham last week, gets only 3lb from Inimitable, and Bold Salart again may not lest home.

9 8-0601 PRIME PARTNER (S) T Exterby 4-10-1. Alicon Decisi (6) 5-10 005-60 BELBAY STAR (20) J L Eyre 4-10-1. Dilman Junes 2-11 000500 ROSEATE LODGE (15) (0) (0) S Kettlewell 11-10-1. DI Kettlewell 6

CARLISLE 2.15: 1. ELOQUENT (G Duffield 4-6 fav. 2. Panama Hosse 9-1; 3. Empire Park 12-1. 8 ran. 4., 24. (Sir Mark Prescott, Newmar-led). Totes £1.70; £1.10, £1.60, £2.90. DF: £5.80. CSP. £7.93, Tito: £17.00. NR: Basetan. 2.46: 1. NERVOUS REX (J Wildinson) 5-1;

to a return to race-riding. "I can't remember much

about the fall," Rimmer said af-

home yesterday afternoon.

"The horse just went from un-

25.60. CSP: £7.93, Tric: £17.00. NR: Bassian. 2.45: 1. NEPVOUS REX (J Wikinson) 5-1: 2. Needle Match 12-1; 3. Ultra Bert 9-2; 15 ren. 7-2 fav Marin Street. 2½, 1½. CW. Mur., Lamboum). Tote: £5.40; £1.70, £4.50, £2.10. DP. £54.00. CSP: £68.87. Tric: £154.10. £154.10.
3.16:1. WINTER SCOUT (R Winston) 11-2;
2. Nr Cuibe 4-1; 3. Allinson's Made 5-1. 10
ras. 7-2 fev Euro Sceptic (4th), Y., nt. (R Fahey, Malton). Tota: £8.90; £2.80, £1.60, £1.40. Dr. £18.00, CSF. £28.13. Triesst: £111.37. Trie: £21.10.

E1.40. DF: £18.00, CSF: £28.13. Tricast: £111.37. Trics £21.10.

3.45: 1. RANNBOW RAIN (M Roberts) 6-1; 2. Bollin Frank 5-1 µ.fav; 3. Toputori 9-1. 15 rau. 5-1 µ.fav; 3. Toputori 9-1. 15 rau. 5-1 µ.fav; 3. Toputori 9-1. 15 rau. 5-1 µ.fav; 6-1. Totas: £8.90; £1.90, £2.80, £2.90. DF: £17.90. CSF; £37.51. Tricast: £270.54. Tric: £140.90.

4.18: 1. COURT EUPRESS (A Culturet 5-2; 2. Bold Brief 9-1; 2. Tallwind 5-1. B ras. 5-4 fav Priory Gardens (6in). 1½, 4. (TEtherngon, Mattori). Totas: £3.10; £1.70, £3.10. DF: £20.10. CSF: £17.84. Tricast: £95.93. NRs: Forest Signal, Tacibon.

4.46: 1. BLACK (CE BOY (Dean McNeown) 33-1; 2. Arlendg 11-2 co far; 2. Penny Pep-

4.46: 1. BLRCK (CE BOY (Cean McKeown) 33-1; 2. Aritanig, 11-2 to far, 2. Peansy Peppermint 20-1, 15 raw, 11-2 to far, 2. Peansy Peppermint 20-1, 15 raw, 11-2 to far, 3. IR Bastman, Wetherbyl, Totae: £132.50; £12.10, £1.90, £8.20, DF; £499.60, CSF: £207.85. Tricest: £3.515.28.

5.15: 1. SHERROY (Nr A Basting) evens far, 2. Heighth Of Pama 9-2; 3. Able Player: 16-1. 7 raw, 1½, 4, (S Kettlewell, Mcdieharm). Totae: £2.60; £1.20, £1.90. DF; £8.50, CSF: £6.79, 7/10: Not won. Placepot: £216.70, Quadpot: £70.10. Place 6: £200.13. Place 5: 140.85.

SALISBURY 2.30: 1. KAWAFIL (R HBs) 11-4 fay; 2. Perfect Harmony 16-1; 3. Kenican 4-1-12 ran. 5, 1½. (P Water)r, Lambourn), Totae; 53-20; £1-40, £3-50; £4-50. DF: £51-20, CSF: £46,77. Tho: £72-20. DH: Gland) 7-1; 2. Young Date 3-1 fay; 3. Perstan Dawn 50-1-15 ran. 6, 2. (L G Cottrell, Culcomp-

Rimmer, who will talk to Dr admitted he "can't remember much" about his horrifie fall at Wichael Turner this morning Warwick. But he revealed that about his return, added: "I he suffered no worse than bruiswould like to thank everyone for ing in yesterday's three-horse pile-up and is looking forward their kind messages of support."

There had been fears that the

jockey had suffered serious injury as he crashed to the ground from the fatally-injured Irish ter arriving at his Newmarket Fiction at Warwick. Although detained overnight in South Warwickshire Hospital, he was der me and that was that. I'm released this morning.

ton). Tota: £7.50; £2.50, £2.00, £10.80. DF: £9.10. CSF: £23.77, Tno: £602.20. NRs: DP. £9.10. CSF. £23.77. Tro: £602.20. NRS: Moredun, Taran. 3.30: 1. SNOW KID (Pat Erdery) 5-2 µ fav. 3.30: 1. SNOW KID (Pat Erdery) 5-2 µ fav. 7. Pepplett 7-1; 3. Mr. Sponge 5-2 p fav. 7. ran. 7, 1/4. 00 Loder, Newmarken, Tobas £3.30; £1.20. £5.20. DP: £10.20. CSF. £19.45. 4.00: 1. RAINWARD (Pat Erdery) 2-1 fav., 2. Heart Of Armor 6-1; 3. Spy Rhoel 6-1, 9 ran. 7, 1/4. U Durlop, Arundeh, Tobas £3.40; £1.50. CSF. £15.28. Treast: £62.52. Tro: £18.00. NRS: Badge Of Fame, Highly Prized Bagge Of Fame withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 appless to board praces only, deduction 100 µ in the pound. 4.30: 1. DULCRIER (D Herrison) 5-1; 2. Millow's Double 11-2; 3. Gilko 14-1; 10 ran. 4-1 fav Free As A Bird, 1/4, hd. (F Batding Ningsciere). Tobas: £8,50; £2.40, £1.80, £5.00. DF: £10.80. CSF: £28.71. Tro: £57.40.

£57.40.
5.00: 1. WHITE ENIR: (Pat Edden) 9-2 co fav. 2. Pointer 5-1: 3. Helf Tone 0-2 co fav. 3. ren. 9-2 co fav. 8sjan Rose (4th). Ni. 74. (6 Meeten, Lambourn). Tote: £4.40; £1.90, £1.50, £1.50, DF £17.60. CSP: £24.46. The cest: £36.62. Tho: £1.9.80. NR: Uterary Society.
Place 6: £200.13. Place 5: 140.85.

Evening results, page 29

* THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES ESULT SALISBURY 971 CARLISLE 0891 261 970 Calls cost 50p per minute. TAS, pic, Sen

HYPERION .15 Up The Clarets 2.45 Compatibility 3.15 Rum Lad 3.45 Ballpoint 4.15 Murphy's Gold 4.45 Get The Point 5.15 Beano Script

GOING: Good to Prim.

SCALLS: of - centre; rest - inside.

DRAW ADVANYAGE: High from 71 to 1m df.

Right-hand, unchaining course.

Course is on southern considers of town, 4m W of junction 42 of 166. Buses from Carisle station 2m. ADMUSSROW: Chib 512 (OAPs & under-21s 52); Tatternalls 56 (OAPs & under-21s 53); CAR.

PARES: On rails 52 (Including occupants); represented free.

REPRESENT TIME: David James' Gel (viscred) (4.15); Rob
10 (4.65).

purpersence from Their David James Gra (Watch) (1-15).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Westminster (3.45) was stay on Saturday, Kasa Albawa (4.15) & Dee Pee Tee Cee (5.15) won at Bedow on Saturday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Delight Of Dawn (4.15) has been sent 394 miles by 8 Wineler from Whitehurch-on-Thames, Opon; Watching Reef (3.45) west 257 miles by P Eccles from Lambourn, Berlos.

2.15 CLASSEW SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) \$2,875 added 2YO 5f 126601 RERY WHENT (S) (D) 1 Bory 9 4
16000 PLASH PYOR (S) (D) M W Bestelly 5 13
0050 GENERAL JOE'V (S) M Door 8 11
000006 TOUL'S THESE (S) M W Bustelly 8 11
066 UP THE CLARED'S (Z) J J O'NES 8 11
05 WELVET STORY (C) T I TIME 8 11
05 AMMINISTOR GEAL (Z) P D BOYS 8 8
0 E 8 THEASURE (ZO) N Bycoth 8 6

3.15 CLASS E) £4,025 added 370 51 000511 WILLIAM'S WELL (10) (II) M W Easterby D 8 (7es) _____ G Parido (5) 6 8 - S declared - A Calture 4

- S declared - BETTENS: 15-8 William's Viel, 4-1 Red Lud, 9-2 Toronto, 6-1 Medicante
Princest, 9-1 Ster Of The Road, 10-1 Red Romance, Selbersia, 10-1 Heathyerds Peter!

2.45 PLAYGROUP LUNCHEON CLUB MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E)

SETTING 4-7 Compatibility, 7-2 Mystique Nr., 4-1 Bongo, 25-1 Chief's Spir-

£4,100 added 6f

2 BONEO (31) C'Trompon 3 9 0...... CHEF'S SPREIT G M Moore 3 D.O.

-05000 PISIOSTAR (5) M Dods 4 D 7

- 8 declared -SETTENC: 5-4 Ricky Whitely, 7-2 by The Charata, 5-1 Amington Sirl, 7-1 Valvet Story, 8-1 Tolf's Times, 14-1 Flack D'Or, 20-1 Sensoral Josy, E S -9 declared-BETTINE: 5-2 Westminster, 4-1 Just Grand, 5-1 Ballpoint, Companye, 7-1 Suga Havit, 8-1 Durgamus First, 18-1 Crystal Palls, 12-1 others 4.15 RED MILLS FRISH HORSEFEEDS LADY AM-ATEURS HANDICAP (CLASS G) £3,000 added 7f
034431 RASS ALHAWA (S) D Chapters 4 11 12 (Sec) ... Radio Clark D
40431 MURPHY'S GOLD (22) (CD) R Fahry 5 11 6... Carel Ann Williams (S) 3 3 000304 DELIGHT OF DAWN (10) (0) E Whester 5 11 1 4 050042 MILETRIAN CITY (8) (CD) 3 Berry 4 10 8..... 0-0033 SUEDORO (5) | Golde 7 10 7 Pagino Robson 1 0-0041 KRHS UNO (10) Mrs J Remeden 3 10 7 (Sec)_ O-5406 MANENATAN DEMAKRIO (50) A Basing 3 10 5

_F Dos (7) 9

3.45 UCB FILMS CLIMBERLAND PLATE (HAND-ICAP) (CLASS D) £10,000 added 1m 4f

12 50006 HI MILITARID (8) 5 Nettlewell 3 9 13 _____Serah Booley 10 13 400/06 MARZOCCO (14) (3) T Cutbert D 9 4 _Helen Cutbbert (8) 4 - 15 declared -BETTHYS: 7-2 King Uno, 4-1 Murphy's Gold, 5-1 Kines Albuma, 7-1 Prince Partner, 8-1 Delight Of Dame, Miletrian City, 20-1 Seedore, 12-1 others 4.45 RAYOPHANE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3YO 1m 450300 DAVID JAMES CIFE (G) (J) A Bridey 5 10 5.

-5 decimal --5 decimal -BETTING: S-4 Cert The Point, 3-1 Shryteller, 4-1 Pension Fund, 5-1 Dis-posed Eyrs, 5-1 Captain Carperts, 10-1 Robbo 5.15 WALTON LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) 531100 POWER SAME (8) (0) J Berry 4 D 9_ 50-50 FLYAMAY HELL (FR) (LE) PHONE 388. BETTRIC: 2-1 Dec Pec Tec Cos., 3-1 Highspeed, 5-1 Superpide, 6-1 Power Game, 7-1 Beese Sarbt, 8-1 Rywsay HE, 14-1 More Smortly

Tyson talking of place in history

f Boh Waters were alive today, perhaps he would be as baffled as anyone who is required to arrive at a conclusion about the rematch between Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson. Somebow I doubt it.

Waters, who wrote about boxing for Newsday in New York, was from the old school. A chain smoker, frequently a victim in the Las Vegas casmos, he drank the most ferocious dry martinis. When ordering he applied the Archimedes principle. "No fruit," he would growl.

A useful amateur middleweight in his youth, Waters knew a great deal about boxing. A US Marine tail gunner dur-ing the Second World War, he was once persuaded to box an exhibition with the great champion, Tony Zale, on the deck of an aircraft carrier. Returning to his corner at the end of the first round Waters, who had taken a liberty with Zale, asked for his gloves to be removed. "That mother says he's going to kill me, and I believe him." he said.

It was always wise to engage Waters in conversation hefore major fights because many of his predictions were quite sensational. The legend of Waters' prescience dates back 10 June 1959 when he alone forecast Ingemar Johansson's knock-out of Floyd Patterson for the undisputed heavyweight championship. When Patterson reversed the result a year later, with another knock-out, Waters called correctly again. What is more, he named the round and the

punch, a left hook. When Waters chose the boy braggart, Cassius Clay, over Sonny Liston in 1962, it was felt generally in the trade that Waters had finally ridden out his luck. Clay, soon to become Muhammad Ali, so demoralised Liston that the ogre quit on his stool. Joe Frazier over Ali, then George Foreman, It went on and on. "Getting to be a hurden," Waters said one day when were driving to a har on Long Island, "One of these days I'm going to get a big one wrong and my editor will put it down to the booze." A few minutes later, mistaking it for the sky, Waters drove into the blue-painted wall of a parking lot, which may tell you something about him.

Ken Jones reports from Las Vegas on the complexities of a heavyweight rematch

A personal regret is that I did not pay enough attention to Waters when logic persuaded him that Ali would again overcome the odds to knock out Foreman in Zaire. The Irish in Walers brought about the one serious blemish on his record: Gerry Cooney to take the heavyweight title from Larry Holmes. For once. Waters went with his heart instead of his head, which is never the way to het.

What I am coming to is the bafflement that surrounds Tyson's attempt to reverse the sensational defeat Holyfield

Herbie Hide, whn meets Tony Tucker in his home town of Norwich on Saturday for the vacant World Boxing Organisation heavyweight title, was in court yesterday accused of kerbcrawling. The 25-year-old for-mer world champion, who lost his title to Riddick Bowe in 1995, pleaded innocent to propositioning a woman from his car in Tottenham, north London, no 9 April and soliciting her far prostitution. The case was adjourned until 27 August and Hide was released on his own recognizance.

inflicted last November, after opening as a 25-1 underdog in the hetting emporiums. On these occasions, it is a custom of the Las Vegas Review Journal to print the conclusions arrived at by boxing writers. When approached yesterday, I had to admit that the imponderables continue to have a narcotic effect on the cerebral process. "It's the same for all of us," Jay Larkin, of cable television's Showtime, said, "All the pre-fight stuff we are putting out is conjecture. I come away from watching Tyson convinced that he is going to win, but Holyfield is equally convincing. I've never known a fight that was more difficult to pick

. Holyfield, when consulted, appears to have an edge in confidence. "I respect Tyson," be said after a light work out yesterday, "but be will not bring anything to the fight I haven't

It was early in the afternoon of a very hot day and Holyfield was sitting on the apron of a ring in a tent behind the MGM Complex, the venne for Saturday's contest. He had on a white T-shirt and black trunks. Every now and again he towelled away trickles of perspiration. "I've been doing this for 26 years," he said, "and I haven't gone to the ring scared since I was a boy. Until Tyson fought me, even allowing for the loss to Buster Douglas, the reputation worked for him. The four guys he'd fought since coming out of prison looked terrified."

Holyfield made much of his condition, physical and mental.
This time I'm in even better shape," he said, "stronger, more confident. I feel I can't lose. There's less pressure than before the first fight. I won't be going in there with the intention of avoiding hig shots - but everything that Tyson throws at

Before the first fight, Holyfield was mailed get-well cards. "I'm not getting any of that stuff now," he added. "Everyone knows that I look after my body - and I don't feel any different than I did as a 21-yearold. I want to show the world that the first fight wasn't a fluke. Tyson says that he had a bad day but I made it a bad day for him. I'm convinced that what I did before I can do

Tyson's tactic so far bas been to deflect all questions about the fight. Instead he wanders through boxing history, inden-tifying with Liston, who also served time and bad frequent brushes withe law. People appreciated Liston's ability," he said, "but be didn't get the respect be wanted."

Respect figures prominently in Tyson's thinking. "Those people who run the boxing hall of fame. They don't respect me, so fuck them. I don't need it." Tyson's tangential shifts in

conversation make it even more difficult to predict the outcome of an intriguing contest. There's still time, but I wonder what Waters would have made of it.



Evander Holyfield: "I respect Tyson but he will not bring anything to the fight I haven't seen before' Photograph: Allsport to be."

Collins faces a burning ambition

Steve Collins faces a hitherto unknown challenger for his World Boxing Organisation su-per-middleweight title in Glasgow on Saturday. That does not mean Craig Cummings, a late replacement for Collins' original opponent, Anwar Oshana, will lack fire in his belly.

The 29-year-old American is a full-time firefighter in Kansas City but will not be quitting Fire Station 187 if he takes Collins' crown. Nicknamed "Kid Fire", Cummings bas a record of 34 wins, two defeats and 29 knockouts. He holds the WBA Continental America super-welterweight title and will be no pushover for the Irishman.

"I am a hig fan of Steve Collins. I love the way he fights because I have a similar style, Cummings said. This is going to be a good fight, and I'm coming over to Glasgow to win.

I'm better known in the States than Anwar Osbana. I have fought three times on Madison Square Garden network and I have a better record. I accept few people in Europe know of me, but they will after

In a recent fight, Cummings was hospitalised after struggling to win. It was found be was suffering from smoke inhalation during the fight, after a roof caved in while be was fighting a fire the previous night.

If Cummings beats Collins, he has already agreed a six-fight deal with bis promoter. Frank Warren. This fight is not a big pay day for me. Winning the title is more important. I can make a lot more money if 1 win.

"I'm coming to win but I won't month off at Collins. I like him and I respect him. He's a good champion. But this is a great chance for me to make a living from the sport."

Collins has also been praised by Jake La Motta, the former middlewight champion who will be at ringside on Saturday.

*Collins is my type of fighter through and through," said the 78-year-old, who fought the great Sugar Ray Robinson six times in bis 106 bouts.

"He is tough 10 the bone and one of today's great fighters. He reminds me of the fighter I used

Looking Vood

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England cut down by Choppy

Hockey

BILL COLWILL reports from Milton Keynes England Under-21 Australia Under-21

David Mathews, with a power ful drag shot into the roof of the net, gave England the tead five minutes into the second half in the second of their two tests against Australia yesterday. But, as the Australians stepped up the pressure in a devastating final 12 minutes, Baedon Choppy scored twice and Guy Bolton once to

deny England the spoils. England, after losing the opening game 6-0 on Monday, made four changes in their starting line-up but as in the first game, were quickly pegged back on to the defensive. Only a se-ries of fine saves from Houn-slow's Nick Taylor in goal and several timely tackles from the captain. Brett Garrard, pre-vented Australia taking the lead ented Australia taking the lead.

Indeed, so much did the Australians dominate the play that their goalkeeper was no called into action during the first half. With Mark Pearn introduced into the attack after the interval England came back into the game and won two ear-ly penalty corners, with Math-ews putting them ahead at the

The Australians quickly re-introduced their Olympian. Choppy, and once again forced

England on to the defensive. England's survival was not helped by the temporary sus-pension of Pearn and the Australian breakthrough came in the 58th minute with Choppy scoring from their 10th penalty corner. Bolton scored seven minutes later with Choppy adding another. The Australians held firm keeping out three England penalty corners in the last two minutes.

ENGLAND UNDER-ZI; N Taylor (Hourstown, B Garrard (Guidford, capit, J Collins (East Grisser), R Invine (Mord Univ. A Todd (scar), D Haydon (Teddingson), M Johnson (Carnock), A Strone (Southgels), P Wicken (Cartertury), R Ward (Guidford), T Matthews (Inford Univ. Substitutes (East Grissead), J Ebsworth (Teddingson), Lander (East Grissead), J Ebsworth (Teddingson), Lander (East Grissead), J Ebsworth (Teddingson),

drigton).

Australia Under-21: S Mowlam Al Richards.
B Livernore. D Butier, B George. S Webster, A
Commens, J Bell Icaob, B Chroppy, S Breman,
G Bolton, Substitutes used: T Etier, G Davis.

Montgomerie's French therapy

Colin Montgomeric returns to action in the £600,000 Peugeot French Open at Le Golf National near Paris today trying to forget his near-miss in the US

Open a fortnight ago, However, the world No 3 is determined to think positively and is using this week's tournament as a stepping stone for the Open championship at Royal Troon in three weeks' time. Montgomerie, beaten by one shot by the new world No 1. Emie Els. at the Congressional. knows that the pressure will be on him even more at the course where his tather is secretary.

"I've been looking forward to it since it was announced as the venue about six years ago." he said. "If I'd won at Congressional I could have relaxed. but because I went so close again at the US Open I'll be un-der an even bigger spotlight

now. There will be so much attention off the course that my best peace will be the five hours on it each day."

is dismal to say the least - four missed cuts in the last five years than local knowledge. The rough has grown and it will be

Montgomerie's Open record

- hut he is determined to put that right. He flew up for an early look at Troon last week. That's the first time I've done that for an Open. I've played the course over 100 times, but what I'll have is local support more a demanding test. The more demanding the better from my point of view. I tried to tell the greenkeeper that the fairways were a hit wide in places, but he answers to the R&A, not me."

The Scot shed tears after boeying the 71st hole to lose to s, the man who also heat him in a play-off for the 1994 US Open, and has spent hours thinking about it since. "It was galling to come so close again. They say you have to lose a few. but I think I've paid my dues now. I hope that next time I'm in contention somebody makes a mistake and I win." -

One player who has not just one, hut two, majors to his name - albeit a long time ago - makes his first European appearance of the season. Sandy yle, winner of the Open in 1985 and the US Masters in 1987, is based now on the US Tour, but is currently outside their top 120. "My exemption in America is for one more year, but if things don't work out I'll have to think again," he said.

Australia

Rugby League

A Lyle victory this weekend would not only revive his career but also throw his hat into the Ryder Cup ring, with just 10 qualifying events to go. The first prize is £100,000, and Lyle does t least have happier memories of Le Golf National than Montgomerie. He finished 39th last year, and Montgomerie missed

Nicholas inspired for title defence Britain's Alison Nicholas has an

early opportunity to make amends for the disappointment of losing a play-off in France Iasi week when she defends her title in the £110,000 Guardian Irish Open at Lustrellstown Castle, near Dub-Nicholas, who lost to Hiromi

Kobayashi from Japan at the first play-off hole in the Evian

Masiers lasi Saturday, is one of four members of last year's Solheim Cup team in the field

"I have not had a top 10 in America this year, but my confidence is growing." said Nicholas Cheshire's Joanne Morley,

Dale Reid from Scotland and the Barcelona-based French golfer Marie-Laure de Loren-

zi are the other three Solheim

Cup players in the field.

Morley finished fourth in France last week behind De Lorenzi, who is back in the form which earned her a record sev-

en tournament victories in 1988. Two weeks ago De Lorenzi won the Swiss Open, she leads the American Express merit table with winnings of £53,168 from five lournaments this year.

Dixon ready for five-star even

Equestrianism

GENEVIEVE MURPHY

Karen Dixon reckons that she has two superstars among the five horses that she will be riding in the Macallan International Horse Trials, which begin today at the Burgie Eventing Centre near Forres, in Moray.

It may take two or three years before this claim for two six-yearold horses. The Honourable Boh and Uptourex, is endorsed by the selectors. But, if Dixon is right, the pair should prove that they are upwardly mobile by

their performances in Moray. Burgie should not be confused with the longer-established venue at Burghley

in Lincolnshire, where the European Open Three-Day Event Championships will be held in September. This week, Dixon was added to the long list for Burghley with Too Smart, who finished eighth at Brambam earlier this month.

At Burgie, where she is taking advantage of the brave and hewildering array of classes, Dixon will be looking towards future championships. The two "superstars" Ishe declined the suggestion that she should, perhaps, add "in the making") will run in the one-star three-day

Another two, Mad Murdoch and Get Sharpe, go in the international two-star 1 the first to he run at Burgie I and six-year-

old Smart Deal will he in the novice two-day. Mark Weston's Mad Mur-

doch arrived in Dixon's yard six weeks ago. Formerly ridden by Katie Meacham, the 11-vear-old gelding lost confidence when falling at Burghley last year. He was entered for Badminton this year, but failed to bave a good run in his preparatory events and was withdrawn.

Get Sharpe, who finished fifth with Dixon at Le Lion d'Angers in France in 1994, sustained a tendon injury at Blenheim the following year and was off for the whole of 1996. Last to go in the international two-star, he should be among the leaders when the dressage phase is completed tomorrow afternoon.

Collins faces burning ambition

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Bath face a tough time in Europe

Both face a severe test of their credentials in the Heineken Europe Cup this season after being drawn in the same group as the holders, Brive, and the Welsh champions, Pootypridd. The West Country men face

a stiff task in their quest to seal a quarter-final berth in a new, expanded competition. Their opening game sees a repeat of last year's pool match against Pontypridd in Sardis Road. Bath lost oo that occasion and will realise the extent of their

The 20 top clubs, provinces and districts in Europe have been split into five pools for the third year of the competition, which will be televised by Sky TV. Prize money has increased from £140,000 last season to £400,000. This time it has been introduced from the quarter-final stage, with each of the last eight collecting £15,000. From the semi-finals onwards the money has been doubled - £40,000 for each of the last four and another £60,000 for the finalists.

With each competing team also having the revenue to bank from one extra home match next season, they can look forward to a buge increase on their pool gate receipts.

"We are looking forward to an even better compention this

Silver lining for

Scots' stand-in

enced in European rugby and fully aware of what is required to succeed," said Tom Kiernan, the chairman of European Rugby Cup Ltd.

The six rounds of pool matches with each team playing their group opposents home and away for the first time, will take place on consecutive weekends from 6 September through to 12 October.

The five pool winners will automatically qualify for the quar-ter-finals, while the remaining three places will be decided in play-offs due to be played on the first weekend in November. Those matches will be played hetween the five pool runners up and the best-placed third team from the five pools.

The Courage League champ ions. Wasps, are joined in Pool B by Swansea, Glasgow and Ulster. Last year's beaten finalists, Leicester, are drawn in the same group as the team they beat in the semi-finals, Toulouse, together with Leinster and Milan.

Wales have still to decide their last two teams in the competition, Cardiff and Llanelli booked their places but are currectly in dispute with the Welsh Rugby Union over a "golden share" issue, and have been threatened with eviction from Europe if they do not ac-

'Northern' code conquers the veld



If followers of rug-by league in Britain can draw any comfort from global events over the past couple of weeks, it is that union's suc- to him since.

cesses in South Africa owe much to the other code. While European Super League clubs have been losing heavily in the World Club Championship, players who sharing the Lions' euphoria in

Cape Town. Take Alan Tait, for instance. Oh, sorry, you already have. The scorer of the clinching try in the first Test at Newlands spent

Super League matches all year. Either standards in league and union are even further apart than those in Australian and British Super Leagues, or something remarkable has happened

He was niways a handsome attacking full-back in league, but Leeds supporters will have smirked at paeans from the tour to his pace and defensive soundness, remembering oot just Martin Offiah at Wembley competition have instead been but lesser mortals at more obscure venues standing him up.

Tait's last league couch, in the stiffs at Headingley, was Paul Fletcher, now in charge of Bramley. "He had a toe injury and an operation and he strugmost of last season playing gled with his form," he re-league in Leeds' reserve side, called. "Then in the back of his called. "Then in the back of his not considered good enough for mind was the idea that his fu- and there was even a serious a first team which won only six ture lay elsewhere, so his com- suggestion that he might make knew how to miss the odd one

The Lions' successes in South Africa owe much to those players with a rugby league past, says Dave Hadfield

always had flair, though, and I'm play at Wembley.

Gibbs' suspension for throw-

Then there is Scott Gibbs, that itchy-footed individual whose motto should surely be: "How green is the grass in the next valley?"

St Helens would have loved to keep him, but they knew that they had no chance of doing so once he decided on a change of direction back to union. Significantly, they have retained his rugby league registration in case of another change of mind

mitment wasn't quite there. He a one-match return to Saints to

ing a punch has given even those who acknowledge the extra di-mension that experience to league has given the Lions the paganda. He must have learned such tricks - unknown in the 15-

a-side game - "Up North". I can assure you that he knew how to throw the occasional punch long before be ever pulled on a Saints jersey. And, although he ran and tackled from the start of his league career like a small hull, he also

through faulty positioning. As holding down a first-team place we saw on Saturday, when he at Cronulla, now one of Ausslipped off Gary Teichmann, he has not lost that trait.

John Bentley is a different case from either Tait or Gibbs. He is still a contracted player with Halifax - although you would hardly know it - and merely on loan to Newcastle and the Lions. Halifax were glad enough to

whether his presence on the field in Australia, rather than prowling the touchline in Cape Town, would have made much difference to an embarrassing series of hammerings. The evidence from South Africa, though, is that he might have bolstered battered team spirits.

credentials as a league man by

tralia's more impressive sides in the WCC Like him. David Young could have been in the Lions' first Test team, and Scott Quinnell - on whom Wigan worked so hard and productively

- surely would have been if fit. It adds up to a significant contribution from a rival code which cannot, on its recent have the money in return for his services and it is a moot point generous. Apart from the loss of some worthwhile man-power, the union alternative makes it fiendishly difficult to impose a salary cap in league.

But that is league's problem, not rugby union's. In the meantime, if they run short of candidates for international immortality, I understand there Allan Bateman proved his are some useful lads running around in Leeds' A team.

en tries as they beat Waikato's replaced by Diego Albanese Under-21 team 41-18 in New and up front Roberto Travagli-Under-21 team 41-18 in New Zealand yesterday.

A local player, Mike Davies,

standing in for the full-back Campbell Aitken, claimed four of the tries with Iain Sinclair. Gareth Flockhart and Alan Bulloch also scoring. Mark McKenzie converted two of the tries and kicked one successful peoalty. Aitken, who went home for

New Zealand later this week but Matt McGrandles is returning to Scotland, having suffered a shin

Argentina have dropped three players and made two positional changes for the second Test against New Zealand on Saturday. The winger Thomas Solari, who scored the Pumas'

BAF appeals against Modahl

Scotland's development squad. only try in their 93-8 loss in the Silver Thistles, ran in sev-Wellington last week, has been ni comes in for flanker Christian Viel and Mario Ledesma for hooker Carlo Promanzio.

Rolando Martin, last week's blindside flanker, switches to open side and Facundo Soler moves to right wing from the left. Solari and Promanzio have been demoted to the bench.

The promotion of Albanese family reasons, flies back to and Travaglini, both 23, resulted from their performance in Tuesday's 26-10 loss to Taranaki, the Pumas' coach, Jose Imhoff, said yesterday.

ARGENTINA Iv How Zeelbard, account Test, Hamilton, Sabardeyi: F. Arrado; F. Soler, E. Simone, D. Albaresse, L. Arbzu (capit): G. Quesada, F. Maranda; P. Camerlincia, R. Maran, G. Lianes, P. Sporicoler, R. Trancejini, M. Regestido, M. Ledesma, R. Grau. Replacementa (from): C. Barrea, T. Sokan, AN Other, C. Promenzio, D. Hasan, P. Bouza.

Australian leagues look ready for a compromise

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

The Australian Rugby League bas, for the first time, announced that it is willing to work with Super League in that country to devise a combined 14team competition for next season. Clubs have effectively been

put on notice that they should seek mergers or relocations that will create a unified national competition for 1998.

Those unwilling or uoable to establish their credentials will be invited to play in a new league, which will be, to all intents and purposes, a second division.

The higgest step so far towards re-unification comes in the week that John Ribot formally stands down as the chief executive of Australian Super League, thus no doubt helping the prospect of a

compromise. Some ARL clubs, like North Sydney and Manly, have already been bolding amalgamation talks with just this eventuality in mind. But others, from both camps, will find all the choices they are faced with - merger, relocation and dropping down a level - equally unpalatable. However, doubts about the willingness of the cable operation. Optus, to con-tinue funding a separate ARL

competition will focus minds wonderfully. One immediate consequence

of an Australian compromise would be that the World Club Championsbip will not be played in its present form next season, or indeed ever again. A distressingly one-sided first-round of matches has already made the concept unsustainable in its current shape,

but a deal in Australia will make it physically impossible to accommodate in the game's calendar. The British authorities, however, will be keen to see an annual play-off between the top four on both sides of the globe built into the settlement. Another consequence of

peace in Australia, the Leeds exciting our fans in the World chief executive, Gary Hether-Club Championships." ington, helieves, would be the availability of a higher calibre of overseas player to the British

game next season. "I would defend alot of the Australian players over here this season - especially those at Leeds - from the criticism they have been taking over the last couple of weeks," he said.

But it would be great to get the really top quality players from Australia and that may happen when the two compentions there come together. "There are going to be clite players looking for a club and

it would be tremendous to see

some of the stars who have been

One aspect of the fall-out

from the first phase of the WCC was discussed last night when Wigan's directors tried to decide what to do about Neil Cowie, the prop who was sent home early from Australia after missing a training session. If Cowic is placed on the transfer list, several clubs whose

has been exposed during the World Clubs Championship could be interested in giving him a fresh start. Widnes Vikings have signed 23-year-old Castleford Tigers'

forward strength, or lack of it.

forward Sean Richardson on a month's loan.

SPORTING DIGEST

Athletics

The British Athletic Federation has begun its second attempt to block a £480,000 legal claim by Diane Modahl over a disputed drug test.

Last year, the High Court ruled against the BAF and allowed Modahl's case to go ahead, but the BAF went to the Court of Appeal vesterday to argue that the former Commonwealth 800m champion did not have a sustainable claim to seek the damages.

ing with her husband and coach, Vicente, is seeking to recover the £480,000 she spent on legal

and medical costs in challenging a four-year drug ban banded out by the BAF. The ban was imposed after

drug tests in Lisbon in 1994 purported to show a high level of testosterone in Modahl's body. But Modahl maintained the tests were flawed and the ban was later lifted by an appeal tribunal and the International Amateur Athletic Federation after doubts were cast over the accuracy of the results.

Modahl says the Lisbon lab-

oratory which carried out the urine tests was not accredited Modahl, who was at the hearby the International Olympic Committee or the IAAF, so that the BAF had no jurisdiction to discipline her.

Rugby Union

ages over the way her case was handled by the BAF. The 31-year-old is also challenging the High Court's ruling

Modahl is also seeking a

similar figure in punitive dam-

from a year ago which struck out her claim of bias on the part of the BAF disciplinary committee. The judges reserved judge-ment to a later date.

The Swedish high-jumper Patrik Sjoberg is a doubtful starter

for the World Championships in Athens later this summer after suffering an injury over the weekend. The three-time Olympic medallist pulled a muscle at a "Superstars" competition on Sunday, and was led off the field limping badly.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

RACING RESULTS

6.40: 1. CALCHAS (S Sanders) evens tay; 2. Indian Missile: 100-30; 3. Overture 3-1. 5 ran. 5, 3. Sar Mark Prescrib), Tota: 52-30: 51.10, 62-40, DF: 53-10. CSF: 24-30. 7.10: 1. PURCHASING POWER (Pet Eddey) 7-2 fag: 2. Twin Creeks 11-1; 3. Halowing 20-1, 13 ran. 1½, 2½, IN Callegism), Tota: £3.50; £2.00, £3.10, £6.90, DF: £17.70, CSF: £28.05 Tracst: £633.32. Tracs: £17.70, CSF: £28.05 Tracst: £633.32. Tracs:

CHESTER C.HESTER
C.SC: 1. BREAK THE RILES (K Darley) 2-5
(av; 2. Nicolar Princess: 16-1; 3. Whittle
Rock 9-2. 8: za., 7, 3%, (M P.Del: Tota:
£1.40; £1.30, £2.60. DF: £5.30. CSF:
£7.83; 7.20: 1. KATHRYN'S PET (A Curbane) 5-2
(av; 2. Mannazi (1-1; 3. Rasayel 7-1, 6 ran.
1), 3. (Mrs M Reveley,). Tota: £2.60; £1.40,
£4.80. DF: £17.70. CSF: £26.69.

Richard Fahey must find a jockey for the Curragh tomor-row night after John Carroll was ruled out of partnering Colours To Gold. The trainer's firstchoice rider will be serving the first day of a two-day suspension, which be bad thought would not come into effect un-

til the following day.
Carroll's agent, Richard
Hale, said: "When John got banned at Royal Ascot last Wednesday we thought it would start on the Friday, nine days later. Then the paper said it was the Saturday and Sunday so we took that as right and he was booked to ride Colours For

"But he got a letter this morning saying the ban starts on Friday so he won't be able

Gold.

to ride, which is a shame as the filly has got a good chaoce."
Colours For Gold, who made a winning debut at Hamiltoo last month, is running in the Goffs £100,000 Challenge, a

race restricted to horses catalogued at the Goffs £100,000 Challenge Sale last October. Ed Dunlop announced yesterday that the top-weight, Jiyush, will miss Saturday's "Newcastle Brown Ale" Northumberland Plate. As a result, the weights for the

£100,000-added Newcastle contest will rise by a minimum of 6fb, with Lord Jim now set to head the handicap on 9st 10lb. The four-year-old, quoted at 14-1 for the two-mile handicap by William Hill this morning, was seventh in the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot last week. His absence will enable Richard Quinn to ride the favourite, Windsor Castle, whose weight will rise to 8st 8lb. ■ Tote Credit offices on racecourses will no longer be allowed to offer board prices on meetings elsewhere. The decision was taken by the Horserace Betting Levy Board at their

monthly meeting in London.

The Board made the move af-

ter, last month, confirming its

starting price.

Baseball Base 19 all

AMERICAN LEASUE: Cleveland 1.0 Minnesons
S New Yark Yarkees 12 Devot 9; Besson 9 Totorto 6; Chicago White Sox 4 Konses City 0; Satomore 6 Minkeuser 2; Anchem 7 Yess 8; Caldans
4 Seemie 1

NATROMAL LEAGUE: San Francisco 4 San Diego
1; Chicanes 7 Mantreel 8 (10 Indigs.); Florida
4 Philadebria 1; New York Mass 6 Adenta 5; Posburgh 3 Houston 3; St Louis 7 Chicago Cuts 2;
Coloredo S Los Angeles 2.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
EAST DIVISION

Attalectics
TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Turin intermaformit meeting liver 100m: 1 D Maccel RS
10.20sec; 2 S Couseh (Lot 10.35; 3 C Cochera (I) 10.40, 400m: 1 D Names R(43)
44.77; 2 S Louaronta (Lot 10.35; 3 C Lot
chera (I) 10.40, 400m: 1 D Names R(43)
44.77; 2 S Louaronta (Lot 10.35; 3 M HyIN (IGH 44.8, 800m: 1 A Longo (I) 1.46.37;
2 N NSTAN (Bel) 1.46.52; 3 B Lathou (Mor)
1.46.58, 3,000m: 1 GD Napol (II) 7.49.31;
2 M Pegoran (II) 7.49.99; 3 B Boulare (Mor)
7.51.37; 1.10m bardles: 1 A Nesyl (PLL)
13.78; 2 S Preters (Bol) 1.4.00; 3 J Wilsons
(IS) 14.07; 4.00m hardles: 1 A Nesyl (PLL)
13.78; 2 S Preters (Bol) 1.4.00; 3 J Wilsons
(IS) 14.07; 4.00m hardles: 1 A Nesyl (PLL)
13.78; 2 S Preters (Bol) 1.4.00; 3 J Wilsons
(IS) 11.07; 4.00m hardles: 1 A Nesyl (PLL)
13.78; 2 S Preters (Bol) 1.4.00; 3 J Wilsons
(IS) 11.07; 4.00m hardles: 1 A Nesyl (PLL)
2 M Tuben (ISD) 2.21; 3 S Novem (Rus) 2.21;
2 Long lump: 1 I Book ford (Lon) 8.49; 2 C Tours
(Sen) 3.12; 3 Y Neumbri (Rus) 8.03, Discuss
15 Lischaw (Rus) 13.38; 3 I Gold
Ing Lam) 13.30; Lone 1 M Lone (US)
11.08:sc; 2 N Vornous (Rus) 13.38; 3 I Gold
Ing Lam) 13.30; Long lump: 1 F Mey (ID)
69.7m; 2 I Galeria (Rus) 6.80; 3 I. Nicos (Rus)
2 N Dega (US) 10.26; 3 S Absances (Rus)
2 N Dega (US) 10.26; 3 S Absances (Rus)
2 N Dega (US) 10.26; 3 N Absances
1 N Brotharbur (US) 10.11sec; 2 V Henderson (US) 10.26; 3 I Madele (SB) 10.33, 400m;
1 R Reynstabur (US) 13.63; Triple lump: 1 A
Asseted Enablaru (Rus) 1.11sec; 2 V Henderson (US) 10.26; 3 I Madele (SB) 10.33, 400m;
1 R Reynstabur (US) 13.63; Triple lump: 1 A
Asseted Enablaru (Rus) 16.89m; 2 N Memory (US)
11.53; 1500m; 1 A Murphy (Mus) 16.69,
Werman: 100m; 1 C Protusenate (US) 13.55;
3 J Bautch (BB) 4.563, 110m hardles; 1 Y
Dess (US) 13.46; 2 C Lodson (Rus) 13.59;
3 C Conirie (Car) 4112.45; 100m hardles; 1 P
153; 1500m; 1 A Murphy (Mus) 16.69,
Werman: 100m; 1 C Protusenate (US) 13.04; 3
0 Bondes (US) 13.12; 18 High jump; 1 A Parlhum (US) 12.85; 2 C Drokey (US) 13.04; 3
0 Bondes (US) 13.12; 187,
2 C Copin (US) 13.18; 2 C Dro

Badminton Derren Hall has slipped to third place in the national rankings after seven years as the undisputed British No 1. Hall has lost his position after an Achtiles injury prevented him from playing in the na-tional championships and three of the

C PCT 68

23 .681
32 .588 a

455 157,

40 .459 16

32 40 .444 17 CENTRAL DIVISION CENTRAL DIVISION
CHAVBARD 38 33 555
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Kaness City 34 37 479
Minnesuta 34 40 A59 WEST DIVISION
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Ansheim 40 34
Tetas 36 37
Oakland 31 45 .573 -.541 25 .493 6 .403 13

NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST DIVISION EAST DAVISTOR

AT 28 .627 Florida ______44 30 .595 21,
New York Mets ...43 32 .573 4,
Whortpest ...42 32 .568 4,
Philladelphia _____23 50 315 23 CENTRAL ONISION Chicago Cubs WEST DIVISION WEST DIVISION

San Francisco 43 32 .573 Colorado 35 .526 35
Los Angeles 37 38 .493 6
San Diego 32 43 .427 11

Jon Thadon is set for a shot at the World

cessful defence of his WBO and in-ternational Boxing Federation inter-continental belts when he fights the lit-tle known German fighter, Gagg Khacha-tryan, this weekend. Theston, from Norwich, would fight either the Italian Giovanni Pans or the fellow Briton Nigel Wenton for the world trite.

Venton for the world title.

Cricket

The weather had the final say in the sec-and Test between the West Indies and ond lest between the viest moles and St lanks, which ended in a thrilling draw on the fifth day at Amos Vale, St Vin-cent, on Tuesday night. Chasing a vic-tory target of 269, Sri Lanks were 233 for 8 when poor light halted play with 15 overs still scheduled to be bowled. Heavy rain ensued, preventing a re-Heavy rain ensued, preventing a re-sumption of play. The West Indices won the two-match series 1-0 after their sixwicket victory in the opening match in

The India's Cricket Control Board has lifted its two-year international ban on the off-spiriner Rajesh Chauhan, who was suspected of throwing by the In-ternational Cricket Council.

Cycling
TOUR OF SWITZERLAND Ninth stage
(195.5kms, Wetzson to Devos) Landing
positions: 1.0 Camerand (Swat Shr 17min
22sec; 2.1 Which (Ser Jimin Sec; 3.1 Penols
(it) earne bries; 4 F Garcia Cases (Sp) 1:14;
5 S Garzen (to 2:05; 6 D Netssen (Neth; 7 F Cassigrance (th); 8 S Gortscher (Ilid); 9 J
Jeksche (Ser) same time; 10 8 Zberg (Swit)
all same time, Overall Standings; 1 C Agnotitus (F1) 33:38:02; 2 O Camenand (Swit)
2:08; 3 J Ulrich (Ser) 4:20; 4 D Allenta Erebenna (Sp) 5:22; 5 R Meier (Swit) 6:18; 8 F
Gertan Cases (Sp) 6:22; 7 Il Nardello (It)
6:48; 3 Garzello (It) 7:17; 9 P Buschor (Swit)
7:26; 10 L Pelpol (It) 7:17; 9 P Buschor (Swit)
7:26; 10 L Pelpol (It) 7:56.
THESDAY'S LINTE RESULTS: Four of Catalonia
Sicth stage (150km), Case Tarradellas to
Pleys de Arc) Leading positione: 1 F Escartin
(Sp) Neime 4tr Jimin 40:66; 2 D Clavero (Sp)
Toscarl +Stag; 3 C Beardman (Sp) Gan +Besc;
4 P Tordov (Ital) Maps + 14; 5 E Zana (It)
Asics +23; 8 M Serrano (Sp) Neime +23; 7
A Sheler (Kaz) Asics +23; 8 A de les Gueros

(Fr) Barnesto +38; 9 A Casero (Sp) Barnesto +37; 10 J L Roberto (Sp) Neime +42. Over-all standings: 1 Boardman 1991 Tims 32se; 2 Escarn +1:36; 3 Casero +1:38; 4 A Lesnoberto (Sp) ONCE +2:10; 5 Tonkov +2:12; 6 M Zarnebead (Sp) ONCE +2:20; 7 A Conzalez (Sp) Euskadi +2:43; 8 8 Vestemp (Neith) TVM +2:43; 9 De las Cuevas +2:43; 10 Ctwero 2:50.

Demien Duff scored a "golden goal" in the fifth minute of sudden-death extra time to give the Republic of treland a 2-1 win over Morocco in the second

2-1 win over Morocco in the second round of the World Youth Chempionship in Melaysia yesterday.

TRANSFERS: Iyasden Christle (forward) Coverby to Marisleid, Aldan Revitouse (forward) WorkLD CUP Asian Zone Stroug Four (folgo): Onen 2 (VI-Aralimi 44, Hasson 89) Macao 0; Japen 3 (Nishtzawa 45, K Miura 73, 27) Nepal 0.

WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP (Makeyata) Second round: Brazd 10 Belgium 0; Uniquey 3 United States 0; France 1 Mexico 0; Republic of ireland 2 Morocco 1 (after suddendestin extra time).

Motor racing Gerhard Berger, the Austrien Formula One diver, has withdrawn from Sunday's French Grand Prix because he needs further rest after surgery for a smus in-fection. The veteran Benetion driver plans to return for the British Grand Prix at Saverstone on 13 July.

Pools dividends

Pools dividends
LITILEWOODS: Treble Chance: 15pts 163.55; half-time £1,188.10 (21pts may).
Four draws £7.15 (paid on 3). Ten homes £1.80. Six aways £1.
ZETTERS: Treble Chance: 15pts £3. Three draws £1.8. Eight homes £1. "Six aways £1.20. Lucky nambers 21.19 10 26 25 23.
BRITITERS: Treble chance: 15pts £2.05.
Four draws £30.57; Eights homes £0.35, six aways £1.20.
VERNONES: Treble chance: 15pts £2.095.
(One disclared only see Rule 4.4. Second and third dividends cancelled).

Table tennis

Hopes are receding that the English Table Fernis Association can hold on to Soren Ahlen, the England men's team captain and coach. Regarded as one of the top four coaches in the world, Ahlen is being head-hunted by Japan and is likely to accept the salary being offered, which will be larger than that on offer from England.

UESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Tour matche

Rugby Loague
ARL STATE OF ORGAN SERIES (Sydney):
Queensland 18 New South Wates 12 (New South Wates win series 2-1).

Ruggby Union

HEINEKEN EUROPEAN CUP (First-rotand draw): 6/7 September: Pool A: Leinster v Toulouse; Leceeter v Mient. Pool B: Swersea v Waspet. Leiser v Gasspow. Pool C: Swersea v Waspet. Leiser v Gasspow. Pool D: Hartequins v Murster: Bourgoin v Wales 4. Pool D: Hartequins v Murster: Bourgoin v Wales 4. Pool D: Caledonia v Wales 3; Treviso v Pau. 12/14 September: Pool A: Midny 1 Youlouse: Leinster v Leiosster. Pool B: Glasgow v Waspet: Swarsea v Usser. Pool C: Bart v Borters; Brine v Ponyondd. Pool D: Wales 4 v Murster; Hartequins v Servison. Pool E: Pau v Wales 3; Caledonia v Treviso. 20/21. September: Pool A: Toulouse v Leiosster. Midn v Leinster. Pool B: Waspe v Leiosster. Midn v Leinster. Pool B: Waspe v Usser, Glasgow v Swarsea. Pool C: Borders v Portypndd; Bart v Brive. Pool D: Murster v Bourgoin, Wiles A v Herbergurs. Pool E: Waspe v Leinster. Pool B: Waspe v Glasgow; Lister v Swarsea. Pool C: Borders v Bert; Portypndd v Brive. Pool D: Murster v Wales 4; Bourgoin v Hartequine, Pool E: Wales 3 v Pour, Treviso v Caledonia. 276 Cetober: Pool A: Leiosster v Toulouse's Leinster v Mien. Pool D: Rourgoin v Marser; Hartequine v Milles. 4, Pool D: Rourgoin v Murster; Hartequine v Milles. 4, Pool D: Bourgoin v Murster; Hartequine v Milles. 4, Pool D: Bourgoin v Murster; Hartequine v Milles. 4, Pool D: Bourgoin v Murster; Hartequine v Milles. 4, Pool D: Bourgoin v Murster; Hartequine v Milles. 4, Pool D: Bourgoin v Murster; Hartequine v Milles. 4, Pool D: Bourgoin v Murster; Hartequine v Milles. 4, Pool D: Bourgoin v Murster; Hartequine v Milles. 4, Pool D: Bourgoin v Murster, Pool B: Waspe v Swarsser; Millen v Leiostor, Pool B: Waspe v Swarsser; Mars Pau v Treviso.

TUESDMY'S LATE RESULTS: Toer restriches (Newcaster), MSW: Australan Barbarians. 26

Cricket

NA LIFE LEAGUE (One-day, 5.0); The Ovel: Surv

Football WORLD YOUTH CHARPIONSHIP Second round: | land v Austrius (10.15em) for John Burg, Malor

ELITE LEAGUE: Ipowich v Equitioume (7.30).
PREMIER LEAGUE: Shelield v Gasdow (7.45). Other sports

TODAY'S

NUMBER

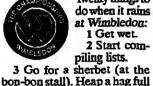
The number of goals that Brazil have scored in just six games at football's World Youth Championships in Malaysia after yesterday's 10-0 win over Beigium in the second round. "It was a game that was never a game," Ariel Jacobs, Bel-

Friends Provident tournaments. The new No 1 is Kent's Peter Knowles, thanks to his victory in the nationals and his policy of approving betting in on-course betting offices only at gium's coach, said. accessful Friends series.

Richard Edmondson identifies the 20 best ways of passing the time at Wimbledon when it rains



With all this, who needs tennis?



bon-bon stall). Heap a hag full of sweets and assorted confectionery. Enjoy some of the players' favourites such as Devon toffee (Karen Cross), peanut crackle (Jeff Tarango) and mini .Mars (Venus Williams).

4 Thank your friends in the office for coming up with original feature ideas. 5 Get an Independent plastic

cape, the superior, thinking spectator's garment, available exclusively to those who purchase a copy of Britain's

Dreekmann is man

to raise the roof

favourite newspaper in the SW19 environs. Only while stocks and the rain last.

onnaise baguette at £3.75, traditional lemonade at a rather untraditional £1.70 and strawberries and cream from a polystyrene punnet. At £1:85 a sbot this values each individual strawberry as a jewel at about 18.5p each. 6b Go to the on-site Barclays

7 Consider that it could be

worse. In 1991, only 52 of the 240 scheduled matches had been completed after the first four days. The Monday was washed out and just 50 minutes play was possible on the Wednesday.

8 Consult your programme and identify the future careers of this fortnight's participants. The easier ones are: Claire Taylor (GB), Patrick Rafter 6a Grah a mid-morning snack. Try a prawn and may-(Aus), Scott Draper (Aus), Jim Courier (US), Marcelo Char-pentier (Arg) and Mandy Wainwright (GB).

9 Participate in the rich his-

tory of The Championships and take home a relic of style and substance. Specially minted cigarette lighters, coasters and frisbees are available from the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum Shop.

10 Have your correspon-dence imprinted with an official stamp at the Wimbledon Post

11 Consult your programme and indentify the cars and au-

tomohile parts associated with this fortnight's participants. The easier ones are: Luke and Murphy Jensen (US), Leizel Horn (SA), Bernardo Mota (Por), Wayne Ferreira (SA) and Petra Langrova (Cz Rep).

12 Take an alfresco seat on the outside courts and watch the plastic bubbles wobbling gently in the watery wind (surprisingly popular).
13 Something for the mid-

week, Patrol the All-England chemists shop and wonder at the untouched rows of sunburn lotion stocked hopefully down the whole side of one wall. 14a Join the queue at the

Wingfield Restaurant in the new Court One complex for a spot to eat. Tuck your napkin in for the luncbeon at £26.75, these purposes). (US, absent injured hut an integral part of Wimhledon for these purposes).

which includes the Wingfield Salad (an infusion of crisp leaves with hacon lardons etc). or go for the seafood alternative at £52.95

14b Return to Barclays. 15 Alternatively, avoid the queues and attend Loseley's ice cream kiosk for an Acacia honey and stem ginger tub, an explosion on the palate and not in the pocket.

16 Consult your programme and identify the places identified with this fortnight's participants. The easier ones are: Grant Stafford (SA), Francisco Montana (US), Lindsay Dav-enport (US), Miss R Grande (It), and Mali Vai Washington

of another emporium, the Wimbledon Shop, Invest in a delightful pottery figurine for your grandmother or purchase hag-ruining merchandise such as the logo-ed combs, wallets

17 Descend into the grotto

18 Line up to buy a phone card and then line up to use the public phone. Ring your friends and family and tell them what a great time you are baving as the rain beats on the

19 Go to the pressbox with a skip-full of ideas and come to the rescue of bordes of distressed journalists from around the globe operating at the nadir of originality.

20 Prepare another list for the following day.

From Jonahs to Jonas

JOHN ROBERTS

probably means little, if anything to those who buddled beneath umbrellas in the grounds of the All England Club yesterday.

A glance at the programme conveys that the 22-year-old German, ranked No 78, is due to play Pete Sampras in the second round when normal service resumes in SW19. But in Halle, Westfalen. Dreekmann is acknowledged as the player who

put a roof on lawn tennis. Initially, Gerry Weber, the German fashion designer, and a business associate became so frustrated trying to book in-door courts that they decided to build their own. Weber and his friends used the courts for their own amusement, and then a letter arrived from Dreekmann's father, Jurgen, explaining that the boy was a promising player who could not get coaching locally.

Hendrik was invited to play on the courts, and Weber hired a coach. Ion Geanta, to train a small squad of juniors. Dreekmann made impressive progress, and the coach told Weber that the youngster needed to be able to play and practice on outdoor courts.

a local farmer, and built outdoor courts with clay or concrete surfaces. Dreekmann won nation-The name Hendrik Dreekmann al junior titles, was runner-up in the European championships and a semi-finalist at the Orange Bowl in Florida.

Encouraged by this, Weber was persuaded to promote tournaments at his tennis complex, graduating to satellite and challenger events on the ATP Tour. Weber then decided to apply for mainstream Tour status. Offered a date two weeks be-

fore Wimbledon, he elected to convert the courts to grass to help competitors prepare for the world's most prestigious championships and engaged a former All England Club groundsman. Weber also built a stadium court with a retractable roof. "The reason for the Halle tournament is Hendrik Dreekmann,"

While wishing Weber and his roof well, the All England Club decline to put a roof on the Centre Court. Nor did they design a roof for the new No 1 Court. Wimbledon, they point out, is an 18-court tournament,

not a one-court event. Dreekmann, incidentally, has played Sampras once previously, the American winning in straight sets on a concrete court It used to be the cheapest shot in British sport. If the cricket or football teams were not targets then our tennis players could always be relied upon to be Aunt Sallys. Bookmakers gave shorter odds on sighting Elvis than a

bome player winning Wimble-

Not any more. William Hill yesterday was quoting 9-1 about the chances of a British man becoming the first to win the singles since Fred Perry in 1936, the same odds as a white Christmas. Snow, it should be noted, has fallen on the London Weather Centre on 25 December for the

past two years. Nobody has accused bookies of being profligate, and the statistics underline their need for caution. Tim Henman is the first men's seed since Buster Mottram in 1982; Greg Rusedski and Chris Wilkinson have just removed seeds and six British men are through to the second round. Success is catching and Karen Cross became the first British qualifier to win a match in the women's main draw since 1976.

Why has the butt of a thousand jokes turned? No one can under-estimate the importance of role models. Henman and Rusedski win a match and players just behind, who have practised with them and know

Guy Hodgson looks at why this year could be a vintage one for once-derided British tennis players at Wimbledon

es, have their own confidence British tennis revival might boistered.

Tim and Greg are an inspiration to everyone," Cross said after removing the world No 44, Linda Wild, Wilkinson, who defeated the 17th seed, Jonas Bjorkman, added: "It's belping the young guys come through. With Tim and Greg doing well people have someone to look up to. Sweden and Germany bad Borg and Becker. In football they have the Shearers and everyone wants to play football. Now we have good tennis players and hopefully they will want to play tennis."

Richard Lewis, the Lawn Tennis Association's director of international and professional tennis, also believes that the top two are clearing a mental path for others in a different way. "There's no doubt that having a Henman or a Rusedski takes the pressure off other players," he said. There's no longer the fear factor that if they don't win no one else will, which was the way

it was three or four years ago. Lewis stresses that what Wimhledon is witnessing now is the fruition of work begun

with male and female reporters

writing much the same story.

Raised in Moscow and trans

planted at 11 to Florida to

learn the game at Nick Bollet-

and a Barbie doll. Headlines

urge her to join the Spice Girls,

out" cooed The Sun vesterday.

ma-tan," opined the more up-

market Times. "Her microskirts

resemble crisply ironed tea tow-

els and her microphone manner

is impeccable. Anna Kourniko-

va would be the perfect Spice

She can play tennis, too, al-

"The irony is that no one was

though much of the early cov-

erage has failed to mention it.

interested in the quality of

Kournikova's performance,

bow she projected ber person-

ality was all that mattered," The

Stephen Wade reports for

Associated Press

Times wrote.

Girl but ... she is too young."

"She has a ponytail and a per-

seem like it has arrived from nowhere, but its roots lie in the process begun in the 1980s. Then the foundations of a coaching programme were laid down, the most exciting prod-

uct of which is Henman. "It's not a sudden thing," be said. "It's part of a continuing programme. We've made a lot of changes. I started at the LTA 10 years ago and the situation is unrecognisable compared to then. The training of the players and the coaching education system is now under one umbrella. 1 think it's very important that the sharp end of playing performance is totally integrat-

with training and education. "British players are on a lev-el playing field. They are playing the same amount of tennis and getting the same training and back-up that players from other countries have. That's been happening for some time, so when they come through to maturity they are as good as

players from overseas. The most obvious manifestation of the change in grassroots tennis is the number of indoor courts that have sprung are now nearly 800, which means almost every promising youngster is within range of year-round tennis.

There are nearly 4m people playing in Britain, a vast im-Side and Brixton might not recognise the sporting Britain that is embodied by Henman and Rusedski but people in districts not so far away will. "We have more to do, there's

no argument about that," Lewis said. "There is an assumption around the country that tennis is élitist even if, in reality, it isn't. Changing the image is one of the things the LTA has to do over the next few years."

The LTA, meanwhile, can enioy at least one change in perception. "It's nice not to be the butt of jokes." Lewis agreed. "In the last two years the cynicism has disappeared but it was a difficult time before that. Now I think British players have earned respect. Last year it was known behind the scenes that we could have a good Wimhledon hut it wasn't expected by the public. This year there is an air of expeciancy and the players

have delivered so far. And if we get a Wimbledon champion? "The next day I'm sure people will be asking where's the next one coming from?" Wouldn't it be lovely,

two days of this. Obvi- niversary of his first Wimously it compacts the bledon victory. We programme later on, but thought that was the we have the time to fin-most appropriate item we ish on time given a fair could afford. Bernard crack from the weather. Neal, of the Wimbledon

bookmakers William Fred by the Lawn Tennis Association and the All England Club in 1959 to Mills' reaction to the auction of Fred Perry's memorabilia.

Court circular

Net gains for Gimelstob

Gary Lineker once famously cited Teletext as the only way to watch Wimbledon play football. The world has moved on and there are now such useful tools as the internet. For the price of a local telephone call, anybody in the world can follow a game as they come up. After that. I think it develops, point by point. Undoubtedly there are eas-

ier ways to see a contest unfold, hut for those most intimately involved, it is the next best thing if they could not get over to England, and there is no broadcast on either television or radio for them.

The American Justin Gimelstoh got an idea of the tension involved for the screenwatchers when he called home following his five-set marathon victory over the French Open champion, Gustavo Kuerten.

My father [Barry, a New Jersey financial consultant) has a bunch of people in his office

who follow tennis and they watched it on the Internet point by point, "he said. "That's

tough.
"It's so much easier to play than to watch it like that, not to be able to see anything, just to see the individual points as he probably gave the office the rest of the day off."

AOL, an on-line service provider, has a site at Wimbledon overlooking the new No 1 Court complex. It has staff monitoring each and every game, updating the progress with every point. Yesterday, it proved a more than useful refuge from the weather as mo-

We have had a lot of interest from spectators all week, Rachel Eade, the AOL office administrator, explained. They come to send messages back to their friends and family at home or just to surf the Net."



Don't look now: Two spectators sporting the smart visitor's outfit of choice at Wimbledon yesterday

No tears for demise of old No 1 court

fering a superb view, unhindered by piller or post, in addition to plush shopping and eating facilities, it would be surprising if the verdict was anything else.

It has been said it lacks the Centre Court sense of intimacy and atmosphere, but perhaps that will come in time. As for the old No 1 Court, it had a feel and a flavour of history all of its own. are mouming its departure.

Not so the players. Court Two is traditionally referred to as the graveyard of the seeds, because of the number of big names who I was kind of glad."

The new No 1 Court, built have perished there over the years, but it seems its senior partner was not too highly thought of either. Monica Seles said she was pleased to see it go. "It was never very kind to me and perhaps without it my Wimbledon luck will change.

A similar note was sounded by Boris Becker, who was asked after his first-round win whether he had feared for his chances out on Court Two. "My problemwas always the old No 1 Court," "I have broken my wrist there

and I had the longest matches in the tournament out there, so when they decided to put it away



Sex the obsession of

STEPHEN WADE

As Wimbledon got off to a wet and gloomy start, the British oress has turned even more to ts favourite subject - sex.

Some excerpts from local coverage of the tournament in-cluded: a photograph of the 17-year-old blonde Olga Barabanschikova - tugging up her shirt and rolling back her elastic waistband to show off a diamond-studded navel; the Russian-born 16-year-old Anna Kournikova, ber lanky, supermodel looks spread across all the papers, with beadlines equating her to "Lolita"; tennis's top woman - the 16-yearold Martina Hingis photographed in her opening match lunging for a loose ball in a short, clingy tennis dress.

Such is the current obsession that BBC television crews bave been told to keep their cameras trained above the waistline and avoid glimpses of underwear.

The London Evening Standard - pointing out the change - notes "underwear of the women players bas been an inescapably prominent feature of Wimbledon ever since 'Gorgeous' Gussie Moran added lace to hers in 1949."

Post-game interviews have offered up questions about 19year-old Iva Majoli's live-in boviriend and the relationship between teenager Kournikova and the 27-year-old Detroit Red Wings player, Sergei

All of this, and 22-year-old

beads bere.

Mary Pierce - long considered

one of the most glamorous women in the game - has yet to take the court.

Neither has the 17-year-old American Venus Williams, whose beaded braids made headlines when she played in a Wimbledon warm-up tourna-ment recently. Williams will reportedly wear purple and green (Wimbledon's colours)

tieri's tennis academy, she is be-ing compared to Chris Evert the all-girl pop group.
"Spice Girl Anna's A Knock-

Much of the attention focuses on the new generation of young TOMORROW'S HEADLINE?

The period of promptient both of the period of the by when he ended the years without a Schrid Stam title by whening the Australian Origin State that campaign could so easily have ended in first rooms that sever plan. Thomas toharsson in their unity meeting so let, forensoin was two sets to love up on Backer and on the brink of claiming a terrous scalp. Becker and on the brink of claiming a terrous scalp. Becker and on the brink of claiming a terrous scalp. Becker and on the brink of claiming a terrous scalp. Becker and so the brink of claiming a terrous scalp. Becker and so the brink of claiming a terrous scalp. Becker and state has been a brink of claiming a terrous scalp. Becker and for word, the 22 year-old Johansson is still improving after talking a giant leap lowerd in 1996, and he will be control prove that he is not just empher production fine Swede. Becker will be wary.

Simon C'hagen

appears to be the local darling,

Quotes of the day

about a British Wim- available again. British bledon winner, the Davis Cup captain, same odds as the Sec- David Lloyd, on Chris ond Coming. Now we Wilkinson's wish to be are offering 9-1 for a considered for the team British victory - the after being unwilling to same price as a white play for the last two Christmas and that's years. happened for the past two years. Graham We bought a silver cig Sharpe, spokesman for arette box presented to

■ We can take one or celebrate the 25th an-Tournament referee Alan Museum, on the recent

Two years ago we l'm delighted to have were quoting 1000-1 Chris back on board and

NUMBERS GAME 16 The number of matches 76 The direct entries to the completed on Monday main draw in men's singles who

27 The amount of whole days that have been a complete wash-out in the tournament's

are 6ft or over 1991 The year of the wettest first week ever 800 The number of indoor ten-17 Boris Becker's age when he nis courts in Britain 11 The number of times Pat Cash has played at Wimbledon

won his first men's singles title in \$W19 TODAY'S WEATHER Cloudy start with showers. Sunny intervals later. Maximum temp 16c

Game set and watch.

ROLEX

OFFICIAL TIMEREEPER TO THE CHAMPIONSHIPS, WIMBLEDON.

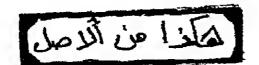
المكذا من ألاصل

Edwards of

Simon Furnitud

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sport



Still intimidating after all these years

Simon Turnbull

sees an audience with Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson take evasive action as the bouncers fly

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here were fireworks in the evening air above Durham City. The py-rotechnic party was in full swing for the students at the annual

In the packed Elvet Suite, in the Three Tuns Hotel, the whiff of sulphur was not quite strong enough to satisfy the assembled students of the summer game. What kind of an answer's that?" one of them demanded, ehallenging the folliely-chal-lenged gentleman sat at the top-

There was a time when an Englishman bold enough to confront D K Lillee would have automatically qualified for a knighthood. But that was decades ago.

It would have been unimaginable then that the demon Aussie bowler who pulverised the Poms would ever consider bolding back in diplomatie deference to the old enemy.

"It's called sitting on the fence, if you want to know, mate," he confessed, having gilded the lily by following his prediction that Australia would retain the Ashes by a 2-1 margin this summer with the rider, but it wouldn't surprise me if it was 2-1 the other way."

Such equivocation was clearly not what the natives had expected, their "Evening with Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson" having opened with a video reminder of the physical (not to mention spiritual) scars inflicted by the demonic duo upon England's finest of 1974

Sir Colin Cowdrey was one of those seen to have been wounded. His son happened to be sat between his one-time tormentors at the Three Tuns. But before Chris, in his capacity as compere for the evening, could pass comment, Lillee - as ever - found support from his tearaway pal of old.

My money's on Australia to win 2-1," Thomson said, "but it wouldn't burt the game if England happened to win. The world of cricket can't afford

STUART ALEXANDER

Tracy Edwards yesterday insist-

ed that she had not given up

bope of setting a new transat-

lantic record on the 92-foot

catamaran, Royal & Sun Al-

liance, despite having to slow the



Dennis Liflee (left), 48 next month, and Jeff Thomson, 46, no longer bowling bouncers but equally forthright with their opinions on the game

England to be as weak as they bave been in the past."

"Do you want the Lions to win too?" the less-than-lily-livered heckler added, "I bope they thrash em, mate," Thommo said, with the kind of feeling that suggested he would have rather relished delivering his high-speed ammo at a few Springboks.

Between 1970 and 1985 Lillee and Thomson battered 555 victims into some kind of submission in the Test arena. Approaching life's half-century mark now, they no longer look quite so fearsome. Lillee, 48 next month, has more of that once-familiar raven hair on his upper lip than on his head; Thomson, 46, has a silver mop. But on the Durham leg of their summer tour, combining the patter of the tap-room with the patter of tiny feet towards the crease in their quest to fos-

ter fast-bowling talent of the fu-

ture, it was clear that some of

the old fire still hurns within. Lillee has mellowed sufficiently to give fair dinkum praise to the current Ashes leaders. "I take my hat off to England," be said. "They're a good unit. They've set themthe future." There was a twin- cause it cost £12 to get in."

Motor cycling

kle in the cyes, however, when he set about his Pommie bash-

ing for the night.
"We have a question slip here to Dennis from a G Boy-

"Geoffrey," he added, after due consideration, "is the only fellow I've met who fell in love

"Yeah," Lillee said. "Boycs would be waiting outside."

'Geoffrey is the only fellow I've met who fell in love with himself at a young age and remained faithful'

with himself at a young age and has remained faithful ever Cowdrey-the-younger said. "Do you really hate me? it says. I don't think it can be selves up for this series and for from the actual G Boycott bejudge a great player as one who

can win a game off his own bat and I didn't see Geoffrey do that too much. And he went into self-exile when the quick bowlers got going."
Thomson, with his unique

sling-shot action, got going with the most menacing quickness, of course. "Did your asthma ever affect you?" he was asked. 'It never affected me at all," he said, dead-pan. "I've never had asthma,"

The final enquiry from the floor concerned the health of English cricket: wbether Dennis or his menacing sidekick, in "He could play a bit, but 1 the unlikely event of being appointed supremo of English

Piper banned for one match

The former England A wicket-keeper, Keith Piper, has failed a drugs test and been fined £500 and suspended for one match by his county. Warwickshire.

Piper's employers revealed vesterday that the 27-year-old had been found to be smoking cannabis and was therefore in breach of club rules.

In an official statement, Warwickshire said: "Following consultation with the England and Wales Cricket Board, he has been suspended for one game and fined £500 for misconduct and

bringing the game into disrepute.
"Both the board and the club take a serious view of the offence, believing that it is essential for the clean image of the game of cricket to be protected.

"The player has agreed to give the club a signed undertaking that he will not be using the drug in future. The club has also offered to provide counselling to the player for this problem as necessary."

Piper's suspension applies to the County Championship game against Leicestershire, which is due to start at Grace Road today. Chief executive Dennis Amiss said: "Piper has gone away for a few days. We will see what frame of mind be is in when he comes back and decide whether it is right to play him in the Sunday league match."

Piper's offence was detected when all of Warwickshire's players were tested for drugs on Monday - a measure that came in the wake of lurid revelations in the press by the county's for-mer all-rounder Paul Smith.

cricket, would allow overseas Owais Shah, teenage hero of players into the county game. Middlesex's NatWest Trophy "I wouldn't," Lillee said. "What population have you win over Kent at Lord's on Tuesday, will make his first Chamgot?" Thomson said. "Sixty, seventy million? What do you pionship appearance of the season against Yorkshire at need ringers for? Get cricket going in the schools. Get the kids Headingley today.

After completing his A levels,

The members of the Durham Middlesex will be hoping that University Academy applauded. Shah's one-day form - 65 not out Outside, the fireworks were exagainst Gloucestershire in the Sunday League and a match-clinching 27 not out against ploding. It would bave been no great surprise had the bells Kent - will be converted to the four-day game. Phil Tufnell is added to Tuesday's line-up. Durham, after all, had become a winning county again -

English cricket's first official attempt to stage a floodlit match may end in soggy - and costly - anti-climax. Tempofloodlights, hired for £40,000, were being erected by Surrey at The Oval yesterday as rain fell steadily, and the weather forecasters were predicting more of the same today.

Surrey's Axa Life League game with Nottinghamshire. billed as the Surrey Lions versus the Notts Outlaws, is due to start at 5pm today. It bas cost £100,000 to put on and was exnected to attract a crowd in excess of 10,000 given fair weather.



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Doohan remains confident

boat on its third night at sea to Also, Edwards reports some avoid icebergs. "I had to make a very difficult additional discomfort caused by decision," she said. "We slowed down. The safety of the boat and crew must come above all else."

Edwards off pace

Even so, Royal & Sun Al-liance had covered 1,264 miles in the first 72 bours, at an average speed of 17.5 knots, chasing the record of six days. 13 bours and three minutes set by Serge Madec on Jet Services in 1990, an average of 18.62 knots. However, with 1,700 miles to go, Edwards needs to average 20 knots to beat the record. Edwards and ber nine all-

woman crew will need to cross

the finish line at the Lizard a few minutes before half past midnight on Sunday morning. Yet by slowing the boat, Edwards has not reached the point planned by Bob Rice, charged with reading the weather and advising on routing. Now they may not be in the best position to take advantage of the weather patterns be recommended.

water leaking through the centreboard plate and having to sleep fully clothed in wet oilskins. "Everything is damp and freezing," she said.

Shirley Rohenson scored a

sixth and two firsts to share the lead with Sweden's Cecilia Bengtsson in the single-handed Europe class after the first day of the Kiel Week Regatta. In the Laser class, Ben Ainslie was also sixth in his first race, but did not complete the second before going on to win the third, leaving him 49th overall.

Micbael Doohan, the reigning world ebampion, is determined to continue his winning streak at the Dutch Grand Prix on Saturday despite crushing his leg in an borrific crash on the As-

sen track in 1992. "Assen is a place that 1 find difficult to get along with," the Australian said. "I bave always been fast and have had some good results but I don't enjoy going there." Dooban's leg almost bad to be amputated after the 1992 smash.

But, much to his own surprise, be has won the Dutch world championship race for the past three years. Another victory on Saturday would be his sixth win in seven outings this season and put him firmly en route to a fourth successive world title. Doohan has compared racing at Assen to racing on public

roads without lamp-posts and

houses. The twisting 6.049-kilo-metre circuit challenges riders with numerous high-speed kinks and rapid direction changes. Its surface is constructed like public roads with the camber falling away from the centre to provide effective rain drainage, posing a major challenge for the

driving skills for riders. "It is very fast and flowing, which is fine, but there are no real corners - many kinks," said Doohan, who is now 43 points clear of his nearest rival, Honda team-mate Alex Criville

"It has a crown in the middle of the road which makes the corner banked, which means as you come out and over the top of the crown the bike goes light and gives you a lot of wheel-spin," said Doohan, who has achieved 39 grand prix wins, 75 top-three placings, 41 pole po-sitions and 35 fastest laps. The lap record at Assen has Kevin Schwantz, who elocked 2min 02.443sec.

Unlike Doohan, Criville ac tually likes Assen. "It is probably one of my favourite tracks," he said. "I always get good results there and I am not saying that because I won my first 500cc there

Criville, who won the Spanish Grand Prix in May and was heaten only narrowly by Doohan in Assen last year, is determined to do better than be did in the last grand prix in France two weeks ago, when be finished fourth.

Max Binggi, who has also won three world titles, is leading the 250cc category with 111 points after six races in his first season for Honda, 13 points ahead of his team-mate Ralf Waldmann of Germany. The Italian teenager Valentino Rossi, riding an Aprilia, leads the 125cc category with four victories from six races. Rossi is on 120 points, 21 clear of been held since 1991 by Texan Honda's Noboru Ueda.

Blow for Boardman

playing.

been ringing, too.

Chris Boardman, who has worn the yellow jersey from the prologue of the Tour of Catalonia. lost it after yesterday's stage.

The Dutch rider, Bo Hamhurger, won the 148-mile seventh stage from Gerona in Spain to Pal, Andorra, with Boardman finishing down the field. The new race leader is the Spaniard, Fernando Escartin, whose victory in Tuesday's stage had left him 1min 36sec behind

Oskar Camenzind won the ninth stage of the Tour of Switzerland yesterday, narrowing to just over two minutes the overall lead of France's Christophe Agnolutto.

The Swiss rider covered the 195.9km (121.7 miles) from Wetzikon in 5hr 17min 22sec. Some 18km (11.2 miles) from the finish, be broke away from

the pack and crossed the line a comfortable 1min 6sec ahead of the second-placed Jan Ullrich of Germany and the thirdplaced Leonardo Piepoli of

with a little help from their Aus-

tralian ringer, of course.

Photograph: Victoria Matthers

Agnolutto, who built up a lead of 11min 32sec in the early stages, finished 19th, some 2min 53sec behind Camenzind. The difference may be too much for Camenzind to make up on the final stage to Zürich

"Únder normal circumstances Agnolutto is a deserving champion," said. But the Frenchman was cautious. "The tour isn't over until Zürich," he

The Tour de France winner Biarne Riis, who was in 14th place after Tuesday's stage in the Swiss race, dropped out before yesterday's stage because of bronchial problems. The race organisers said he wanted to rest before defending his title in

the "yes, but what's the score at Wimbledon now?" solution

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THURSDAY 26 JUNE 1991

Evans the latest casualty for Lions

Rugby Union

CHRIS HEWEIT reports from Durban



A brand new threequarter line for the Springboks. blow for leuan Evans that will cost the Lions the ser-

vices of their most experienced wing. Yet the overriding emotion in Durban yesterday had nothing to do with the intrigue, excitement and nervous tension now being generated in advance of this weekend's monumental second Test between South Africa and the British Isles. It was one of pure relief.

As the full facts behind the head injury suffered by Will

not to mention rugby at large had come perilously close to tragedy. For one horrendous moment as Greenwood lay prone at the Free State Stadium. doctors treating the Leicester centre feared for his life.

"Will is a very very lucky young man," said Fran Cotton, the Lions' manager, yesterday. "Had it not been for the immediacy and quality of the medical belp he received, well. God only knows what might have happened. He was unconscious when our doctor reached him and he was still unconscious when he was stretchered off. It was an extremely worrying incident."

Greenwood crashed head first into the unvielding high veld turf following a beavy tacksciousness instantly. He spent

Tuesday night in a Bloem-fontein hospital but had sufficiently recovered by yesterday morning to fly back to Durban with James Robson, the Lions' doctor. He has serious concussion and a dislocated shoulder joint and has been told to avoid all contact sport for two months. He may, however, stay with the

squad until the end of the tour. The Lions will decide over the next 24 hours whether to call for a replacement, but their more urgent concerns surround the immediate future of the talismanic Evans. The veteran Llanelli wing aggravated a groin condition in training yester-day, definitely misses the weekend hostilities at King's Park and will almost certainly join Greenwood in bowing out of the remainder of the programme. Jeremy Davidson, the fast-de-

veloping Irish lock forward who

played such an effective hand is last Saturday's first Test victory at Newlands, is also under treatment for a shin problem.

be an obvious replacement for Evans; the Newcastle wing's State established him as the most prolific strike runner on tour and his deeply competitive character would make him a valuable commodity amid the fire and fury of Saturday's occasion. However, Allan Bateman's high-class displays in midfield must also bave come into the equation as the selec-

tors chewed the fat last night Whatever they come up with later today, it is unlikely to be as radical as the Springbok selection for the do-or-die showdown in two days time. Carel du Plessis, the much-maligned South African coach, recalled

Danie van Schalkwyk, the Northern Transvaal centre who put two tries past the Lions in Pretoria almost three weeks ago, and awarded first caps to John Bentley would appear to two versatile Western Province backs, Percy Montgomery and hat-trick of tries against Free Pieter Rossouw. He also switched Andre Snyman from left wing to right to enable Rossouw, a full-back by breed-

ing, to play on his favoured flank. Given the injuries to Edrich Lubbe and Japie Mulder, van Schalkwyk's promotion surprised no-one; he played effectively against the All Blacks last summer and but for injury would have featured in du Plessis' original squad. The shockwaves surrounded Montgomery, who bas already faced the tourists twice on this tour without giving them the heebee-geebees.

Most Springbok pundits favoured either a move inside for

Snyman, which would have allowed him to resume his provincial midfield partnership with van Schalkwyk, or, better still, a call-up for the 1995 World Cup bero Hennie le Roux. Du Plessis insisted yesterday that le Roux was carrying an injury and was therefore not available, but suspicions are rife that the Gauteng playmaker's continued absence from the Springbok side has more to do with his ability to upset the wrong people at the top end of South African rugby's

power structure.



Will Greenwood lies unconscious as help is summon Northern conquerers, page 29 during Tuesday's game against Free State Photograph: Emph

Fast Seles beats the rain

JOHN ROBERTS reports from Wirnhledon

Major Walter Clopion Wingfield is due to be enshrined in the International Tennis Hall of Fame for inventing the game on the lawns of his country estate. Days like yesterday are enough to make one wonder what on

earth he was thinking about. The All England Club was close to its first total washont of a day's play since 1992 when Monica Seles appeared on the Centre Court shortly before

Not a single ball was hit until 6.05pm, and Seles's opponent, Rachel McQuillan, may have wondered why she had bothered to leave the dressing-room. The Australian, ranked No 105 in the world, won only nine points in the opening set, which Seles won, 6-0, in 19 minutes.

Seles continued to dominate to the extent that the Australian did not win a game until she was 0-3 in arrears in the second set. The irony was that McQuillan's serve, which had heen shaky from the start, suddenly produced an ace on game

Having waited all day for action, the spectators were primed to roar their approval of a Se-



Outer reaches: Monica Seles, the No 2 seed, goes full stretch during her 6-1, 6-2 victory over Rachel McQuillan at a rain-disrupted Wimbledon yesterday

winning forehand volley on match point. The shot coincided with further rain and Seles was left high, but not dry, two points short of victory at 6-0,

5-2 and deuce. The players returned to the court after a break of 39 minutes, and the crowd searched the sky for patches of blue as they warmed up before com-pleting the day's first bit of husiness. McOuillan served more in hope than in prolonging the en-

It was not the ideal entrance for Seles, the No 2 seed, who has never produced her best form at Wimbledon, but at least she was able to launch berself into the tournament, much to the re-

lief of her supporters.
With another rain-delayed afternoon in prospect, the organisers are wondering whether they will be forced to consider play on the middle Sunday. This has happened on only one occasion previously, in 1991 gagement. She managed to and the cluh will be loath to reedge to advantage, only to be peat the performance.

py campers squelching in the grounds. Chris Wilkinson, hav-ing settled his differences with Britain's Davis Cup captain, David Lloyd, was named in the squad to play Ukraine in Kiev the weekend after Wimbledon.

Wilkinson had been in exile. virtually self-imposed, since protesting about the Lawn Tennis Association's decision to import Greg Rusedski from Canada in 1995.

The 19-year-old Martin Lee. of Sussex, will also travel with the team, Jamie Delgado and Mark Petchey having heen

Andrew Richardson, who defeated Byron Black in the tie against Zimbahwe at Crystal Palace in April, keeps his place. along with Neil Broad, the doubles specialist.

"David Lloyd has spoken to me, and everything is fine," said Wilkinson, whose five-set victory on Tuesday against Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman, the No 17 seed, impressed the captain as much as everyone else.

"I told Chris at Queen's that he was coming [to Kiev]," Lloyd said, "and now he's played him-

He's a good pro, but people playing for any team have to want to play for their team, and he does. "He has played very well

over the last three weeks, and he now desperately wants to play for his country again. I've always spoken to him, but the words Davis Cup were never brought up. It was important for him to say. Yes. I want to play for my country, which he did.

There's never been any, 'He doesn't talk to me and I don't talk to him' stuff. My joh is to run the Davis Cup team to the

Photograph: David Ashdown

les victory after 44 minutes passed three times – two fore-when McQuillan delivered a backband. There were at least two hap-py campers squelching in the by Tim Henman and Rusedski. Time Henman and Rusedski. Time Henman and Rusedski. Time has best of my ahility. I can have the control of my ahility. I can have the control of my ahility. I can have end of his Davis Cup career?

"On the positive side, if the The difficult part for Lloyd time next year we have 20 play was to inform Petchey that he ers and I have to pick four. had lost his place after Tuesday's be delighted." WOMEN'S SINGLES First round (seed players in capitale): M SELES (US) bt R i Quillan (Aus) 6-0 6-2. impressive win against Jan Kroslak, of Slovakia, "Mark

Who needs tennis? page .



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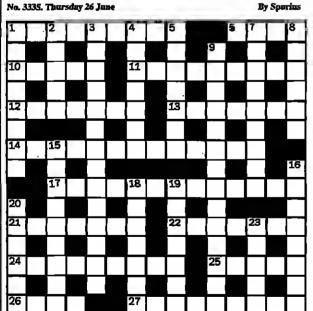
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mally between naves and chancels? (9)

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engineers (5) I1 Envoy hopping around study, prepared for a roast-ing? (4-5) 12 Infective agents doing for

Channel Island student in exotic resort (7)

13 Look critically at risky venture in one no trump (7) 14 Not, presumably, where teacher puts tick? (6, 2, 5)

17 Former champion lists weak points (8, 5) 21 Small amount of moisture, hit of damp, and powder's 5 Barren territory one left in going off (7) the south-east (7)

22 Breed of showy mate, a dreadful wolf, at rear of gym (7) 24 Give a beam where food's

concerned? (9) 25 Fight that is, on reflection, hottest in the centre? (3-2) 26 Point established when

Academician enters (4) 27 Irregular duels castigated by politician (9)

DOWN Terrorist weapon issue comes up, associated with a killing (4-4)

Caper I can't cut? (5) 3 See dandified lion-tamer preen himself? (5, 4, 5) Vehicle, to begin with, is in surprisingly poor condition



7 Where you'd find fly-leaf?

Carnivore in yard, one originally kept in pen (6) Final run-through every-one's geared up for (5, 9) 15 Improvements on the way?

16 Plays hadly after entering Gaelic music festival's rendering of devotional songs

(8) 18 Scheme boy has to get around north country (7) 19 Space newspapers will give

powerful woman (7) 20 District Attorney turns up as substitute for counsel (6) 23 Better to expose cheat (5)

Sheffield United rate Kendall's loss at £1m

Football ALAN NIXON

Sbeffield United are to demand £1m from Everton to compensate for the departure of Howard Kendall to Goodison Park. The Yorkshire club's chairman, Mike McDonald, who hired Kendall as manager 18 months ago, said yesterday: "I feel I have been kicked in the

McDonald, who is now in talks over recompense for Kendall with his Everton counterpart. Peter Johnson, added: Everton value Howard Kendali enough to hand him control of their club. How do you put a figure on experience, know-how and a success rate?"

Kendall's first target when he begins his third tenure at Everton may be the England midfielder, Paul Ince. Johnson is believed to have guaranteed Kendall £20m to rebuild the squad at Goodison Park and the signing of Ince, valued at between £4m and £6m by Internazionale, will be a priority.

"If I am going back to Everton I want the best," said Kendali yesterday. Sheffield United drew up a managerial shortlist last night headed by Bruce Rioch, the former Arsenal and Bolton Wan-

derers manager. The First Di-vision club have sounded out possible candidates, including Lou Macari and the former Republic of Ireland manager, Jack Charlton, but Rioch is emerging as the likeliest feplacement for Kendall.

Rioch, the assistant manager at Queen's Park Rangers, is not under contract and there is no compensation involved. United are looking for someone with Rioch's pedigree to carry on where Kendall left off. Rioch took Boiton from the Second Division to the Premier League and Coca-Cola Cup final.

Desoite differences with some of his employers at Arsenal. Rioch guided them to fourth place in the League in his one season at Highbury.

Other managers confirmed in new jobs yesterday were Jupp Heynckes, who signed a two-year contract with Real Madrid, John Tosback, who joined the Turkish side Besiktas, and the former Danish international, Jan Sorensen, who took over at

Internazionale officials were dismissive yesterday of suggestions that their acquisition of Ronaldo from Barcelona broke international regulations. The Spanish Federation filed a formal complaint on Barcelona's hehalf that Ronaldo's £17m

week violated Fifa rules. Michel Zen-Ruffinen, Fifa's deputy secretary, said on Tuesday that huy-outs are valid for domestic transfers, but not international deals

However, a spokesman for the club said: "The transfer is absolutely legitimate and the contract has been already deposited at the Italian Federa-

Internazionale also said yesterday that they are close to signing Auxerre's Nigerian defender. Taribo West. Roberto Baggio has an-

nounced that he is to leave Milan. The club's new coach. Fabio Capello, has told Baggio and Dejan Savicevic that there will be no place for them next season. The Cambridge United

winger Paul Raynor. 31, is to join the Chinese club Guang Deong Wen Yuan. The former Nottingham Forest apprentice has agreed a one-year deal with the Cantonese side, who will pay a transfer fee of around £20,000), Eric Cantona has been asked

to fill in for Alan Shearer in a match in Hong Kong next Thursday to celebrate the reunification with China. Shearer has commitments with Newcastle, while Paul Gascoigne has already turned down OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 519L, and printed at Matter Colour Print, St

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